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SOURCE DENIES PALESTINIANS INVOLVED AT 'AYN AR-RUMMANAH

JN121730Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1650 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] A responsible Palestinian information source has stated the following: In reply to the statement that has been made by the so-called Duri Shmun that a number of members of Palestinian organizations have been wounded during the current incidents in the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and adjacent areas, we would like to assert the following:

1. This report is absolutely baseless, because none of the Palestinian organizations has anything to do with the regrettable incidents that took place in the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and adjacent areas.

2. The incidents that took place and are continuing in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and the adjacent areas are encroachments by the isolationist forces against the peaceful citizens and the Arab deterrent forces in this area.

'ARAFAT HAILS PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE STEADFASTNESS

JN121744Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday visited the families of the two martyrs--Hassan Shararah and Qasim Bizzih. Brother Abu 'Ammar offered condolences on behalf of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. The brother commander in chief greeted the steadfastness of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. He also praised the steadfastness of the joint forces and the cohesion which was demonstrated during the Bint Jubayl battle that resulted in the martyrdom of the two heroes.

The brother commander in chief asserted that the Palestinian revolution, in cohesion with the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, is determined to continue its steadfastness and confrontation of the plot and the Zionist occupation.

PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL DENIES 'ARAFAT VISITED ROMANIA

JN130915Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 13 April--Salim az-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, Fatah representative in Kuwait and the Arab Gulf and deputy chairman of the Palestine National Council, has denied the reports that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat secretly visited Romania.

In a statement published here today, Az-Za'nun said that this report is completely baseless and that Yasir 'Arafat is preoccupied with the current efforts to confront the new plot in Lebanon. He added that 'Arafat's previous visits to Romania were announced and so will be his future visits.

FEDAYEEN ATTACK ISRAELI POSITION IN SOUTH LEBANON

JN121859Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Our fighters waged an attack against a Zionist enemy position in southern Lebanon. They used handgrenades, rocket launchers and machineguns. They killed and wounded several enemy soldiers and destroyed several vehicles. Our fighters returned safely to base. A Zionist military spokesman today admitted the attack of our fighters but claimed that only one IDF soldier was killed in this attack.

ARAB SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE TO MEET 22 APR IN KHARTOUM

JN121230Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1008 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 12 April--Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, vice president and foreign minister, declared today that five Arab states--Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, the YAR and Jordan--have informed Sudan of their agreement to participate in the Arab solidarity committee under President Numayri. At-Tahir said that President Numayri will preside over the first meeting of this committee on 22 April in Khartoum and that the five states will be represented in this committee at the foreign ministers level.

PARS INTERVIEWS OPEC OFFICIAL ON VIENNA MEETING

LD121408Y Teheran PARS in English 1013 GMT 12 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Bonn, 11 April, PANA (PARS News Agency)--Representatives of national oil companies from OPEC countries met in Vienna today to coordinate their relations with major oil companies.

In an interview with PARS News Agency, the secretary general of OPEC, Ali Muhammad al-Jiddah, said that OPEC members wished to make a number of fundamental changes in their export policies so as to shift the emphasis from crude oil to refined products. OPEC member countries are also investigating ways to improve the marketing of their products, the utilization of imported transportation methods, and cooperation with petrochemical industries in the industrial nations of the world.

ARAB TRANSPORT WORKERS SUPPORT PALESTINIANS, SYRIA

LD080246Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 Apr 78 LD

[Text] President Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and chairman of the Council of the Revolution, has received a telegram from the participants in the meetings of the Executive Assembly of the Arab Transport Workers Federation on the occasion of the conclusion of their work. Their telegram states that the Executive Assembly of the Arab Transport Workers Federation, which is held in Algeria--the land of the 1.5 million martyrs--salutes your national and pan-Arab stands on fateful Arab issues, foremost the issue of the Palestinian Arab people. The message went on: The Arab transport workers, while they express their esteem for your excellency, are confident that the front for steadfastness and confrontation will have an effective influence in the escalation of the Arab liberation struggle against Zionism, imperialism and their instrument in the Arab area.

The participants in the extraordinary conference of the Arab Transport Workers Federation also sent another telegram to the secretary general of the General Union of Algerian Workers in which they wished the workers movement in Algeria every success in the development of the country and for progress and prosperity.

The extraordinary conference of the Arab Transport Workers Federation ended its work today after 3 days of listening to important reviews presented by transport specialists. The conferees studied a report by the General Secretariat of the federation and they studied the current political situation in the Arab area. They approved the draft constitution and the basic statute of the conference and decided on the permanent headquarters of the federation which has now been moved from Cairo to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

At the end of their work, the participants approved several recommendations that concern the workers of the federation's member states and they allocated a day's wage by all the transport workers--land, maritime and air workers--in the federation states to be donated to the Palestinian revolution.

The political resolution which was approved saluted the heroic steadfastness of the combined Palestinian-Lebanese forces. The participants praised this militant cohesion by these two revolutionary forces which work for foiling the Zionist, imperialist and reactionary plans. They appeal to all Arab states to give material and military aid to the Syrian Arab region and the PLO because they are considered to represent the forward line in confronting the Zionist enemy.

The participants in the extraordinary conference of Arab Transport Workers Federation denounce the barbarous French attacks against the Saharan people and they salute at the same time all the liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND CARRIES INTERVIEW WITH 'ARAFAT

AU091945Y East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 6 Apr 78 p 6 AU

[Text] In an interview with Frank Kluwe, ADN correspondent in Beirut, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, took a stand on the present situation in southern Lebanon and on a lasting solution to the Middle East conflict.

Asked about the aims of the Israeli aggressor, 'Arafat stated: "It has been proven unequivocally that we were confronted with a massive invasion by the Israeli aggressive army." It was not minor skirmishes which the PLO had to conduct but a real war that lasted 8 days and nights. The Israelis employed all their weapons in this war--tanks, planes, warships, rockets and paratroops, he said.

"They started their aggression with some 30,000 soldiers. It really was a very tough battle, "the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee stated. "They used new, highly advanced weapons that they received from the United States. The aggressors also employed the notorious so-called pellet bombs and many rockets. It seems as though these weapons were tested during the aggression against our people."

The Israeli troops not only fired at the PLO armed forces but also bombarded the homes of the Lebanese civilian population and Palestinian refugees. "According to the Israelis' own statement, the purpose of this barbaric aggression was to crush the PLO, our military forces, the entire Palestinian people," 'Arafat stressed. "It is extremely important to know that the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, approved this action with its resolution, a resolution to destroy another people."

But the aggressors were compelled to take note and were surprised that they failed to achieve their goals, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee continued. "Their plans were frustrated through our determination, courageous resistance and combat tactics. We compelled the aggressor to adjust to our combat tactics and thus prevented the Israeli troops from implementing their military combat tactics. Mordekhay Gur, the chief of staff of the Israeli army, was forced to admit that his troops had met with violent and effective resistance. They had to conquer every house separately."

It is true that the Israeli troops were able to occupy part of southern Lebanon, but Yasir 'Arafat stressed in this connection the successful operations and the new combat tactics of the PLO fighters, stating: "We can say that so far the Israelis only control the four roads over which they carried out their attacks plus a few meters to the right and left of these roads. But our volunteers and the joint armed forces of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement are still operating in the areas between these roads of approach."

As before, the PLO must proceed from the premise that the plot will continue in various forms and hues, Yasir 'Arafat said in reply to a question about the tasks at the present stage and about the prerequisites for a just and lasting solution to the Middle East conflict. "What is involved here is an international imperialist-Zionist conspiracy against the Palestinian and Lebanese people, against the PLO, against the Palestinian revolution and against the progressive nationalist Lebanese forces."

"We must regard the Israeli aggression--the fifth war as I would like to term it--from various viewpoints. The aggressors believed that they could crush us within a few hours, but our volunteers heroic resistance thwarted this plan. Our resistance has resulted in the boosting of morale among all the Arab peoples masses. This is clearly visible in all Arab states, but particularly in the occupied Arab territories. A real explosion of protest rallies has taken place everywhere there. It is very important that during this time many volunteers from various areas joined our forces. Of these volunteers 95 percent are Palestinians."

Yasir 'Arafat further stated: "We are striving for peace in the Middle East, but for a just peace, not a peace of capitulation. What the Israelis and their backers are proposing is not a just peace but a capitulation. We are fighting for a just peace that gives the Palestinian people their national rights--the right to return to their homeland, the right to self-determination and the right to establish an independent state on our Palestinian territory. I believe that the return to the joint Soviet-American Middle East statement accepted by the two great powers in October 1977 constitutes the only road to achieving such a peace. This document is an important basis for a solution to the Middle East conflict."

In reply to a further question about the role of the anti-imperialist solidarity with the Palestinian people, who have been so tested by adversity, and about the decisions of the front of steadfastness, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee stated: "We formed the Arab confrontation front to deepen and strengthen the solidarity among the peoples masses, governments and parties. This front is an expression of the determination of the participating sides to resist capitulation and the imperialist machinations in the Middle East." He recalled that thus far the front has met at two summit conferences and held a meeting of foreign and defense ministers. Several important decisions to support the PLO struggle were adopted at these meetings, he said.

The PLO will continue its endeavors to strengthen this front, which is aimed at imperialism, Zionism and colonialism and which rejects any capitulation to the U.S.-Israeli plots.

The Palestinian movement is now conducting its struggle in the most forward trenches on various fronts, Yasir 'Arafat stressed. "But we are not waging this struggle alone. We have a broad front of brothers and friends in the Arab states, in the socialist states and in the nonalined states."

Referring to the recent visits by a PLO delegation under his leadership to the USSR and GDR, 'Arafat said in conclusion: "Our delegation conducted extremely successful negotiations in both states. In the Soviet Union we talked with Comrades Brezhnev, Gromyko and Ponomarev. In the GDR we had very successful talks with Comrades Honecker, Grueneberg and other comrades of the Central Committee. The talks in Berlin and Moscow consolidated our relations with our friends in Berlin and Moscow. We are very proud of the firm and solid relations we are maintaining with these two friendly states and with other socialist states."

PLO REPRESENTATIVE MEETS WITH PRC FOREIGN MINISTER

JN082036Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The PRC has reiterated its firm and principled stand on the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian revolution under the leadership of the PLO. This was stressed during the meeting yesterday between At-Tayyib 'Abd ar-Rahim, PLO representative in Peking, and Comrade Huang Hua, PRC foreign minister.

During the 90-minute meeting the foreign minister reiterated that China will not recognize the Zionist entity and will increase its backing and support for the Palestinian people in the near future to enable them to overcome all the plots against them.

VOP: ARMS ARRIVE AT JUNIYAH FOR LEBANESE FRONT

JN091913Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1610 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Heavy military equipment, trucks and ammunition arrived at Juniyah harbor yesterday. These were then carried to the depots of the Lebanese Front in the Kasrawan region.

It should be mentioned that the department of the Phalangist students has alerted its elements in colleges, institutions and schools and has asked them to register their addresses and present work locations at the isolationist party centers in their areas of residence.

ABU JIHAD MEETS WITH DPRK AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT

JN071718Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1510 GMT 7 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad, member of the Central Committee of the Fatah movement and member of the General Command of Al-'Asifah forces, met with the DPRK ambassador in Beirut at midday yesterday. They reviewed the recent developments of the Palestinian issue and the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon.

The DPRK ambassador affirmed the DPRK's support for the Palestinian people's just struggle for self-determination and for the establishment of an independent state.

BAHRAIN

YAR PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

JN130843Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0820 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Manama, 13 April--YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Manama this morning on a 3-day official visit to Bahrain as part of his tour of the area.

He was received at the airport by Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Crown Prince and Defense Minister His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, the ministers, the YAR ambassador to Bahrain and high-ranking Bahraini officials.

'Abd al-Ghani is expected to hold talks with Bahraini officials on the latest developments in the Arab situation and issues of mutual interest.

KUWAIT

MINISTER DENIES ARRIVAL OF SOVIET EXPERTS

JN121652Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1636 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 12 April--Jasim al-Marzuq, Kuwaiti education minister and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs, has denied a report about the arrival of a group of Soviet experts in Kuwait to train the Kuwaiti Army on the use of the Soviet-made SAM-6 and SAM-7 missiles. In a press statement today, Al-Marzuq said that this report is absolutely groundless. The magazine AS-SUNNAR, published in Arabic in London, reported in its latest edition that 20 Soviet experts had arrived in Kuwait for this purpose.

STATEMENT ISSUED ON YAR MINISTER'S VISIT

LD121831Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The following press statement has been issued on the visit of 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, member of the YAR Command Council and prime minister of the YAR, to the state of Kuwait:

At the invitation of his brother His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, member of the YAR Command Council and prime minister, leading an official delegation, paid a visit to the State of Kuwait from 10 to 12 April 1978.

The visit was an affirmation of the strong tie of fraternity between the State of Kuwait and the YAR, and the consolidation of the bonds of constructive cooperation between the two countries and their respective fraternal peoples.

At the beginning of the visit his excellency the guest had a meeting with his highness the amir and conveyed to him a cordial message from his brother, His Excellency President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the YAR Command Council, which dealt with the current Arab situation and ways of promoting solidarity between the fraternal Arab states in order to confront the serious challenges facing our Arab nation. During the visit, joint talks were held dealing with bilateral relations.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the progress and growth realized by the sincere cooperation between them in various fields. Out of their common desire to expand and consolidate the prospects of this cooperation in line with the common aspirations and interlinked interests of the two fraternal peoples in various spheres, the two sides agreed to set up a joint committee for this purpose.

During their talks the two sides reviewed current Arab affairs and the dangers facing the Arab nation, and first of all the recent weakness and split in the Arab rank which affected the march of joint action to confront the continued Zionist aggression on the Arab territory--aggression which was recently manifested in the occupation of yet another part of the Arab territory in southern Lebanon, in addition to the occupation of and settlement in Palestine and other Arab territories. In this respect the two sides discussed the efforts which have been and are being exerted for the unification of the Arab ranks and for removing the reasons which prevent the cohesion of these ranks and also the intensification of its march toward the realization of its aims.

The two sides stressed the principled attitude adopted by each of the two sister countries in this field, an attitude which has always been distinguished by concentration on the realization of Arab solidarity and effective participation in any effort made in this respect and also by constant effort with all Arab sides to overcome their peripheral differences and to clear the atmosphere in order to devote themselves to the confrontation of the common enemy and the challenges of destiny.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the positive results of this visit in connection with consolidating the ties of cooperation between the two countries in various fields. The member of the Command Council and YAR prime minister expressed thanks and appreciation for the great welcome accorded to him and his accompanying delegation during their visit to Kuwait. He invited his brother the crown prince and prime minister to visit the YAR. The invitation was accepted with thanks by his highness, who promised to pay the visit as soon as possible.

OMAN

UAE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN MUSCAT

JN130852Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0845 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Muscat, 13 April--Head of the UAE Amiri Court Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad and Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi arrived in Muscat this morning on a visit whose duration and purpose have not been disclosed. They were received by Omani Foreign Minister Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im Zawawi and a number of Omani officials.

QATAR

AMIR, YAR PRIME MINISTER RESUME TALKS

JN122021Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1935 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Doha, 12 April--Official talks between Qatar and the YAR were resumed here this evening. The Qatari side was headed by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, Qatari amir, and the YAR side by 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, Command Council member and YAR prime minister, who is currently visiting Doha. The talks dealt with strengthening bilateral relations in various fields, the current Arab situation, efforts being made to restore Arab solidarity and issues of common concern.

YAR MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT TO QATAR RADIO

JN122030Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1950 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Doha, 12 April--'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, YAR Command Council member and prime minister, has stressed the importance of Arab solidarity. He said: This solidarity will be restored to its previous level by the efforts being made by the brothers. We consider this one of the aims of the Arab nation.

'Abd al-Ghani described his talks today with His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, as successful. He stressed that his talks in the Sultanate of Oman and Kuwait were successful.

On the extent of coordination and progress between the two parts of Yemen for complete unity, the YAR prime minister said in the statement carried by Qatar Radio and Television tonight: We have committees that meet periodically to prepare for this unity. These committees have covered a lot of ground. The day will come when this goal of the Yemeni people is achieved.

Concerning the efforts being made to keep the Red Sea away from international conflicts, 'Abd al-Ghani said: Efforts are still being made to make this sea a zone of peace and security. There is no intention of holding a summit conference of the Red Sea littoral countries,soon. However, if the need arises to hold such a conference, my country will not object to it.

Concerning the 5-year plan, the implementation of which has begun in the YAR, 'Abd al-Ghani said that this plan expresses the ambitions of the Yemeni people. After it has been completed, the Yemeni people will have made a big stride in the field of economic progress and growth.

Concluding his statement, 'Abd al-Ghani stressed that his country is being greatly assisted by the Arab brothers and friends to bring about success for the 5-year plan.

SAUDI ARABIA

'UKAZ VIEWS PALESTINIANS, REJECTION FRONT

LD111900Y Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 8 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial]

[Text] The question of the withdrawal of the PLO from the rejection front is a basic step toward bringing Arab views closer on the path to the achievement of peace in the Middle East. This is because both Arab camps and indeed all the Arab countries affirm that the Palestinian problem is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Palestinian withdrawal from this front will achieve the balance between the Arab powers and will, at the same time, place the Palestinian problem above Arab differences and disagreements.

The Palestinian resistance, which has had bitter experiences both in its fighting and in its Arab relations, must draw lessons from the experiences it has had in order to shoulder its historical responsibility.

First the resistance must learn the lesson of divided Palestinian loyalties so that loyalty will be to Palestinian soil alone; second, it must realize that the leftist forces will not stand against Israel for the sake of the Palestinians.

Rather, throughout the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict these forces have contributed to supporting Israel with arms and men. They have also, through their devious ways and schemes, been able to plant their Marxist ideologists in the resistance ranks in order to create division and conflict within its ranks.

On the basis of its experience since the 1967 defeat, the resistance can evaluate the Arab stands in light of the real aid that has been given to it and contrast such aid with slogans and appeals that contribute nothing.

Resistance means struggle, consciousness and not believing in resounding slogans.

Since the Palestinian resistance is now standing on a crossroads after it was banned from Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese territories, the Arab nation is called on to adopt an objective stand; it must clearly determine the strategy of Arab action in the face of present conditions and changes in the Arab arena, and particularly after Menahem Begin declared that there will be no total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

And since efforts are still being exerted in order to convene an Arab summit meeting and the majority of the Arab countries have shown readiness to attend such a meeting, what matters now is to prepare the grounds properly for this meeting so that Arab differences will be discussed objectively in order to prevent their recurrence and to adhere to a course of Arab action that will enable restoring Arab rights without outbiddings and slogans. In this way the Arab summit will be able to enrich the Arab struggle and draw clear outlines of joint Arab action at this extremely criticial stage.

'UKAZ WARNS AGAINST OVEROPTIMISM ABOUT ISRAEL

JN111011Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0902 GMT 11 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Jidda, 11 April--The newspaper 'UKAZ has warned against overoptimism about the reports that Israel has begun withdrawing from southern Lebanon and that this is an indication of the enemy government's intention to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories. Zionist policy is still based on carving up Arab lands, the paper says.

Commenting in an editorial today, 'UKAZ emphasizes that solidarity is still a winning Arab card. The kingdom is exerting every effort to achieve this solidarity and to restore the Arabs' brilliant and effective disposition, as in the Ramadan war.

COMMENTARY SCORES ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

LD111726Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Apr 78 LD

[Muhammad 'Ali Daghistani commentary]

[Excerpts] In full view of the entire world and in the absence of Arab unity and the closing of Arab ranks, Israel has exploited a flimsy excuse in order to continue implementing its grand expansionist and territorial plan. It occupied a new part of Arab territory, relying on the great weapons arsenal it has acquired, so that it can live at the expense of the sufferings and rights of others. Israel did not hesitate to declare that it had even used deadly cluster bombs against civilians; in so doing it violated, as the United States said, the conditions governing their use which had been agreed to by Washington and Tel Aviv.

But as soon as Israel felt that a wave of world indignation and denunciation were inundating it from every side, as well as the steadfastness of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces in the face of this flagrant aggression which did not bring Israel all the gains it had been trying to secure from the aggression--particularly the goal of destroying the Palestinian resistance--it relented and agreed to implement the article of UN Security Council Resolution No 425 that it likes most. But with regard to the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, the resolution has still not been implemented because of Israel's haggling--a customary Israeli tactic after every blatant aggression.

Despite the fact that all the arguments and proof are on the Arab side, we find that yesterday evening the Security Council failed to reach a final agreement concerning Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The meeting was no more than a tug of war regarding views and proposals.

Thus the council ended its work without reaching a final and specific agreement. It decided to meet again tomorrow evening to begin, as usual, the same negative process which does not go beyond making appeals and condemnations. As for the required practical approach, everyone knows that it is in the hands of those involved who fully realize the dimensions of the danger in the continuing presence of the aggressor forces on a new Arab land--particularly when the Arabs have not yet recovered the territory which was occupied in 1967. This is because those who have the right [to this land] have become weak in the absence of their unity.

The Arab nation today pins its hopes on the decision the Arab League council took at a recent meeting to form an Arab committee solely to make an earnest attempt to restore to the Arab nation its tottering unity and to enable it to lay down a comprehensive plan for joint Arab action to confront the Israeli enemy.

These efforts may lead to a meeting of Arab leaders to discuss the situation which has arisen as a result of the Israeli enemy's invasion of southern Lebanon and the way to confront repeated Israeli aggression against the Arab nation. This is because the wounds of any nation cannot be healed except by its own people. It is not at all prudent that any nation should seek the cure from those nations which banded together against it and inflicted on it various types of wounds.

AL-MADINAH ON SAUDI-IRANIAN RELATIONS

JN111018Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0858 GMT 11 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Jidda, 11 April--Under the headline "We and Iran Are One Nation," the newspaper AL-MADINAH today comments on the current visit to Iran by Defense and Aviation Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, existing fraternal relations between the kingdom and Iran and their significant role in the region and the world at large.

The paper says: Above all, relations between the kingdom and Iran are based on the common spiritual ties binding the two countries and peoples and merging them into one world. Furthermore, the leaderships of the two countries represented by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and the Shah of Iran His Majesty the Shahanshah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi have worked and continue to work to keep these relations developing and growing.

The paper adds: The bilateral meetings being held in Riyadh and Teheran reflect the determination of the two countries to continue the coordination and consultation between them so as to serve the interest of our Islamic nation and the security of the region in the best manner possible.

AL-MADINAH affirms that the strength of fraternal Iran in the military and economic fields is an additional strength for the kingdom and the Islamic world, just as the kingdom's strength is an additional strength for Iran and the Islamic world. Iran is adopting a position in line with its mission as an Islamic state, and its policy has always been committed to the dictate of its religious duties as well as the duties of neighborliness, fraternity and the common destiny.

UAE

SHARJAH RULER RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM 'ARAFAT

JN121414Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Sharjah, 12 April--His Highness Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the UAE Higher Council and ruler of Sharjah, at noon today received Ribhi Hallum, director of the PLO office in the UAE.

Following the meeting Hallum stated that he conveyed a verbal message to His Highness Shaykh Sultan from Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, dealing with the latest developments in the Palestinian cause. The message also included 'Arafat's thanks to the Sharjah ruler and to the UAE people for their support of the Palestinian cause.

MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM SUDANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY

JN091025Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1012 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 9 April--UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashi 'Abdallah met here today with Sudanese Ambassador to UAE 'Uthman as-Samhuni [name as received]. During the meeting As-Samhuni conveyed a message to Rashid 'Abdallah from the Sudanese Foreign Ministry dealing with the consultations currently under way to restore Arab solidarity .

YEMEN--PDRY

PREMIER RECEIVES IRAQI NAVAL DELEGATION

LD121627Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Premier Ali Nasir Muhammad today received Commander [Muqaddam Bahri] Abduh Muhammad 'Abd al-Ilah, leader of the Iraqi Naval delegation currently visiting the PDRY. The two held a cordial discussion on the fraternal relations linking their two countries and the importance of exchanges of visits between officers of the Arab naval forces.

YEMEN--YAR

OFFICIAL CONFERS WITH SOMALI MINISTER ON HORN

JN121227Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 12 April--Ahmad Haydar, under secretary in the YAR Foreign Ministry, met at San'a' International Airport with Abdurahman Jama Barre, Somali foreign minister, who stopped over here on his way home from Cairo. Following this meeting, which was attended by 'Abdallah Harman, personal representative of the YAR Command Council chairman, Haydar said that the discussion with the Somali minister dealt with bilateral relations, the current Arab situation and the situation in the Horn of Africa.

TALKS HELD WITH ROMANIA ON OIL PROSPECTING

JN071902Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 7 Apr 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 7 April--Official talks began here today between the YAR and Romania. The YAR delegation was headed by Ahmad Sayyid Barakat, minister of state and chief of the Mineral Resources Department, and the Romanian side by D. Gheorghe, deputy minister of mines and petroleum.

During the meeting they discussed the possibility of Romania prospecting for oil and minerals in the YAR and contributing to establish the project of storing oil products in [word indistinct].

AL-GHASHMI RECEIVES ROMANIANS, BRITISH OFFICIAL

JN101456Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the armed forces, received in his office at the republican palace today the Romanian delegation currently visiting the YAR under D. Gheorghe, deputy minister of mines, petroleum and geology. During the meeting, spheres of cooperation between the two friendly countries in the field of propecting for minerals in the YAR were discussed. The meeting was attended by Ahmad Sayyid Barakat, minister of state, chief of the Mineral Resources Department and member of the People's Constituent Assembly.

Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi then received John Tomlinson, British secretary of state for overseas development [title as received]. During the meeting, talks were held on the economic cooperation between the two countries and the possibility of Britain's participation in implementing some of the 5-year plan projects. The meeting was attended by the British ambassador in San'a' and Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab al-'Arashi, vice president of the Central Planning Council.

ROMANIAN DEPUTY OIL MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT

JN111812Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Romanian deputy minister of mines, petroleum and geology Dobra Gheorghe left San'a' today after a 6-day visit to the YAR during which he held talks with officials of the General Corporation of Oil and Mineral Wealth dealing with cooperation between the two countries in the field of oil and mineral exploration. The talks resulted in a protocol on oil and mineral exploration being signed by the two countries. The protocol was signed on the YAR side by Dr Ahmad Sayyid Barakat, minister of state and director of the General Corporation of Oil and Mineral Wealth, and on the Romanian side by Dobra Gheorghe, head of the delegation.

In a statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY before departure, the Romanian deputy minister expressed his pleasure at meeting Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the armed forces. He said that his talks with Mr Barakat and the officials in the General Corporation of Oil and Mineral Wealth had been successful and fruitful. Concluding his statement, he expressed appreciation for the cordiality accorded to the Romanian delegation during its stay in the YAR. He was seen off at the airport by a number of officials from the corporation.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT INSPECTS PROJECTS IN ASWAN

NC122218Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC

[Text] This morning President Anwar as-Sadat made an aerial inspection of the (Tushki) Canal project, which channels the surplus water of the Nile to the Wadi al-Jadid. The president was accompanied by Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, Irrigation and Land Reclamation Minister Engineer 'Abd al-'Azim Abu 'al-'Ata, Housing and Reconstruction Minister Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, Agriculture Minister Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, and the chairman of the food security group, Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman.

President Anwar as-Sadat also inspected the arable lands south of the valley, which is connected with the (Tushki) Canal. President as-Sadat also met with the Board of Directors of the As-Sadat Agricultural Cooperative Society for the building of the Nubah lands surrounding Nasir Lake. Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, chief of the president's office Hasan Kamil, the ministers of irrigation, reconstruction and agriculture, Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, the Aswan governor and some People's Assembly members attended the meeting. The president heard the demands of the society's members and discussed the problems they face and ways of solving them in cooperation with the prime minister and ministers. President as-Sadat handed the society's chairman, 'Awad Salih Tirbas, the first title deed of 1,500 feddans to begin cultivation at the start of the exploitation of the arable lands around Nasir Lake.

President as-Sadat then met with Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and the ministers accompanying his excellency on this tour.

ASSEMBLY DISCUSSES ISRAEL'S USE OF CLUSTER BOMBS

NC121325Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] The People's Assembly resumed its meetings this morning under Assembly Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i. The subjects of Israel's use of banned bombs [cluster bombs] in southern Lebanon and the U.S. supply of these bombs to Israel were raised at the outset of the meeting. The assembly speaker explained that the seriousness of supplying Israel with such weapons was proved after Israel had used them in Lebanon. He also pointed out that Israel does not honor any agreements. The assembly has decided to refer this subject to the Foreign Affairs and Arab Affairs committees, which will meet tomorrow to study it and submit a report on it to the assembly.

JOURNALIST DEFENDS HIS CONCEPT OF NEUTRALITY

LD121745Y Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 8 Apr 78 p 6 LD

[Tawfiq al-Hakim article: "This Is Egypt's Opinion in Its Neutrality"]

[Text] The reactions published in the newspapers AKHBAR AL-YAWM and AL-AKHBAR to my call for "neutrality" and the discussion that the subject has generated should be fully put to the public. The following is as much comment as I would like to make:

The first point that is noted from the views and ideas expressed is that Egypt has awakened to the reality that came about as a result of what it has suffered and is still suffering from the wounds that have been caused by the many and successive wars in which it bore the major burden.

While Egypt suffered the severest shocks, the others gained. Egypt got nothing from them except curses from some and painkillers from others. Finally, Egypt has come to believe that only Egypt matters and that Egypt comes first.

The enthusiastic prose about Egypt's commitment, leadership and vanguard role no longer convince the people of hungry Egypt. It is only the few who are not hungry, whose stomachs are full, who can afford the luxury of philosophizing with such words. As for the majority, who are searching for a livelihood, they continue to wonder why this constant talk about Egypt's commitments toward the others and why is nobody thinking about the commitment of others toward Egypt?

The Egyptians have begun to realize and to recall how the United States helped its allies in Europe after World War II with the Marshal plan, which set Europe on its feet and restored its industrial power. This was not done with superficial aid and painkillers.

On the other hand, a project such as the farming of 1 million feddans in Sudan, which will finally put an end to our hunger, is not attracting a small share of the billions that our brothers have spent and are spending on the purchase of hotels in England and islands in the United States.

Arab solidarity is not just an expression; it is an investment fund. Arab unity does not mean hunger on one side and affluence on the other.

The majority of Egyptians have come to realize that those who favor commitments from Egypt must fulfill their commitments to it.

After long sufferings Egypt has awakened and therefore no longer accepts being fed with enthusiastic words, exercises in composition and emotional slogans.

The idea of "neutrality" as I meant it does not seem to be clearly understood. Some think it is political isolation while others imagine it is economic boycott. In fact, I cannot imagine myself being deprived of participating with my views in political, social and economic matters in accordance with my beliefs, ideology and interests and of associating myself with others with whom I may find such association necessary in matters of defense, financial and economic activities and in cultural cooperation.

The principle of "neutrality" I want is not a mere inanimate legal term such as found in the international law books. It is the "neutrality" that we must extract for ourselves as the cure for the condition of Egypt which is always being provoked and dragged into situations in which it is forced to forsake its livelihood and, driven by emotions, hurls itself into destruction. The situation has become such that Egypt has neglected a 30-year-old pipeline and let it explode, thus disrupting its communications with the outside world. This is because it is busy with the catastrophe of successive wars.

Therefore, Egypt needs a solution that would safeguard it against provocations, against being dragged down and against the emotionalism which is aroused in us by those who shout about our duties and committments, as a result of which we lose our minds and rush to throw ourselves into destruction. As we lie in the rock bottom of destruction, we wait for someone to help us out. We wait for long while the others are preoccupied with their own interests. It is as if it is our duty to remain lying on the ground waiting and waiting, and here we are still waiting. [The paper prints on the same page several letters addressed to the writer, some supporting his ideas and others opposing it.]

KAMIL MEETS WITH FRENCH, ITALIAN AMBASSADORS

NC1216342 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today met with the French ambassador in Cairo. He also met with the Italian ambassador. The discussions at these two meetings dealt with the latest developments of the situation in the Middle East, events in southern Lebanon and the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution on Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. Views were also exchanged on the efforts being exerted to insure Israel's withdrawal in light of the statement issued by the heads of the EEC governments.

EGYPT REPORTEDLY SETS CONDITIONS FOR SUMMIT

JN1212502 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Apr 78 pp 1, 15 JN

[From AD-DUSTUR office]

[Text] Cairo--Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat has authorized Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri to speak on his behalf in the mission to restore Arab solidarity which is due to begin in a few hours.

An informed Egyptian source has told AD-DUSTUR that Cairo has informed both Riyadh and Khartoum of its agreement to attend the projected Arab summit conference provided that proper arrangements are made for it and that the conference discusses the following:

The restoration of Arab solidarity and unity of Arab ranks on the basis of the resolutions of the Algiers and Rabat summits.

The projected conference should also not turn into a venue for outbiddings, but should proceed to assess the current Arab and international situations so as to produce a comprehensive plan achieving for Arab aspirations.

Through As-Sadat's initiative, Egypt has succeeded for the first time in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict in exposing Israel's real position in a practical and official manner. It has also succeeded in exposing before the American people Israel's real obstinate position, which threatens world peace.

Egypt, backed by all the other Arab sides, is willing to commit itself to whatever is required to achieve the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people provided the commitments of each party and the means of meeting these commitments are clearly defined.

Egypt is willing to attend the projected Arab summit conference, whether it is held in Cairo--where the Arab League headquarters is located--or in any other Arab capital, provided it is not a capital of any of the steadfast states.

The AD-DUSTUR correspondent in Cairo has learned that the Egyptian president has sent a letter to Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri detailing Cairo's position on the projected Arab summit.

TRADE DELEGATION LEAVES CAIRO FOR WARSAW

NC1120452 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1921 GMT 11 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 April--An Egyptian trade delegation led by Trade Ministry Under Secretary Yusuf Salah 'Abadi left Cairo for Warsaw today to attend the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Polish trade committee. The meetings will begin in the Polish capital tomorrow.

IRAQ RATIFIES AGREEMENT WITH PDRY, CUBA

JN101036Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0721 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 April--The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has ratified the agreement on fishing in PDRY territorial waters which was signed last July in Baghdad. The agreement provides for developing and strengthening economic and technical cooperation in the field of exploiting fish resources in PDRY waters.

The RCC also ratified the agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation between Iraq and Cuba which was signed in Havana last December. The agreement expresses the desire of the two countries to strengthen and deepen the cultural and scientific relations between them.

OFFICIAL GREETS PRESIDENT OF FEDERATION OF CUBAN WOMEN

JN121522Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 April--Ghanim 'Abd al-Jalil, member of the RCC and of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, today received here today Mrs Vilma Espin, member of the Cuban Council of State and of the Cuban Communist Party [PCC] Central Committee and president of the Federation of Cuban Women, and the members of the delegation accompanying her.

At the beginning of the meeting, which was attended by Mrs Manal Yunis, chairman of the Federation of Iraqi Women, 'Abd al-Jalil welcomed the friendly guest delegation and outlined the importance of such meetings in consolidating the struggle of the revolutionary forces against imperialism and Zionism. He reviewed the revolutionary developments and achievements brought about by the Ba'th Party in all fields and the Party's humane and scientific outlook regarding the status and effective role of woman in developing society.

Mrs Vilma Espin praised the revolutionary progress made by the Ba'th Party in all fields and its firm and principled stands in the struggle to support liberation movements in the world.

LEADER OF IRAQI WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION INTERVIEWED

FL121329Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Apr 78 FL

[Text] On the occasion of the visit to Iraq by the president of the Federation of Cuban Women--FMC--Vilma Espin, PCC Central Committee and Council of State member, our special envoy to that fraternal middle eastern country (Norma Eras) interviewed the president of the Iraqi Women's Federation, Manal Yunis. The Iraqi leader stated that the visit by the FMC president will contribute toward developing ties between the two organizations and peoples. She also stated her confidence that the talks will bring closer agreement in the points of view between the two women's organizations and will consolidate, to a greater degree, the friendship between the two peoples. In another part of the interview, Manal Yunis recalled her stay in Cuba 2 years ago and her meeting with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. On this point she emphasized that at her meeting with Fidel, the Iraqi delegation found that the head of the Cuban Revolution had a complete understanding of the process of that Arab country.

SOVIET PETROLEUM DEPUTY MINISTER LEAVES IRAQ

JN101517Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1432 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 April--Dzandar Takoyev, Soviet petroleum industry deputy minister, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today after attending the celebrations of the Luhays oilfield in Basrah Province in southern Iraq. Takoyev praised the efforts of those working in this huge oil project. He said that he had held talks with officials in the Iraqi Oil Ministry aimed at strengthening cooperation in this field between the two friendly countries.

ROMANIAN TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN IRAQ

JN101556Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1537 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 April--A delegation from the Romanian Foreign Trade Ministry headed by Mr (Marco Teodor Teodor), general director in the ministry, arrived in Baghdad today for a 1-week visit to Iraq. The delegation will discuss with Iraqi officials bilateral relations in the fields of industry, agriculture and oil industry and training centers in the two countries.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN BAGHDAD

JN121237Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0958 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 April--Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, received in his office this morning Marie Jacque Andre Morizet, French ambassador in Baghdad. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Malik al-Yasin, under secretary in the Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

UAE OIL MINISTER ENDS VISIT, LEAVES BAGHDAD

JN091457Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 April--Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, left Baghdad today after participating in the ceremony opening the Luhays oilfield in Basra Province in southern Iraq. During the visit Al-'Utaybah held talks with Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, on a number of issues related to oil.

MEDICAL TEAM RETURNS FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN102021Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 April--Members of the Iraqi medical team which was sent to southern Lebanon to help the victims of the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon returned today to Baghdad. The team, which included four groups of doctors of all specializations, in addition to nurses and first aid personnel, expressed their gratitude to the Arab Liberation Front and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society for their assistance in facilitating the work of the team in giving help to the victims of the treacherous Zionist aggression. The members of the team said that they performed a large number of surgical operations and offered medical aid for the sick and wounded in the Palestinian camps and for the southern Lebanese refugees.

It is noteworthy that an Iraqi medical group remained in Lebanon to continue its medical service in the 'Akkar hospital and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society hospital.

PRESIDENT SARKIS MEETS WITH LEBANESE LEADERS

NC121020Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC

[Text] At 1145 today President Ilyas Sarkis received former President Sulayman Franjiyah, Pierre al-Jumayyil, Bashir al-Jumayyil and Dani Sham'un in the presence of commander of the Arab deterrent forces Lt Col Sami al-Khatib.

SARKIS, AL-ASAD EVALUATE SITUATION IN LEBANON

NC121346Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Presidential palace sources have said that a contact took place this morning between President Sarkis and Syrian President al-Asad during which an evaluation of the situation in Lebanon was made and an understanding was reached on some appropriate measures to be taken.

AL-HUSS MAKES STATEMENT AFTER CABINET MEETING

NC121336Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis this morning chaired the cabinet's weekly session. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the ministers attended. Before the cabinet meeting President Sarkis met with Prime Minister al-Huss and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

The cabinet meeting ended at 1315. President Sarkis then held another meeting with Prime Minister al-Huss and Minister Butrus. It ended at 1415. After the meeting Prime Minister al-Huss made a statement in which he said: We are extremely pained by the current events. The cabinet's discussions this morning centered on the deteriorating security situation in Ash-Shiyah-'Ayn ar-Rummanah and the measures that may be taken to put a quick and effective end to these incidents and contain the effects of these incidents. We hope that, through the deterrent forces and the cooperation of sincere people, the authorities will be able to control the situation quickly. We expect everyone to cooperate with the deterrent forces to enable them to carry out their mission fully to insure the return of tranquillity to the area of the clashes and reassurance for all the people.

The delicate and serious phase through which the homeland is passing makes it incumbent on us to resort to wisdom and reason and show national consciousness and a sense of responsibility to spare our homeland the dangers surrounding it.

Asked whether Minister Butrus will visit Damascus tomorrow, Prime Minister al-Huss said: Minister Butrus' visit has been postponed in view of the present situation and circumstances.

Asked whether new measures will be taken, he said that contacts are in progress.

PRESIDENT, PREMIER HOLD WORKING MEETINGS

NC122033Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis this evening held a working meeting attended by Lt Col Sami al-Khatib, commander of the Arab deterrent forces, and Maj Gen 'Ali Aslan, commander of the Syrian forces participating in the Arab deterrent forces. Also, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss this evening called on former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salem. They reviewed the latest developments in the country, particularly the recent security situation and the efforts underway to curb the consequences of the regrettable incidents.

Al-Huss, Salam Statements

NC122215Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Prime Minister al-Huss met earlier this evening with former Prime Minister Salam. After the visit the prime minister made a statement in which he said: Under our present critical circumstances, it is natural for me to consult with former Prime Minister Salam. Naturally, we discussed the question of the south, including the government's stand on confronting the Israeli occupation. The government position is to facilitate the return of the refugees to their homes. We also discussed the present security situation in the country, particularly the tense situation in the areas of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Ash-Shiyah and the steps being taken by the state and the government to end the clashes taking place in these areas and restore calm.

Prime Minister al-Huss was asked his opinion about the partial Israeli withdrawal. He answered: I adopted a position on this matter when Israel announced its program for partial withdrawal. I made my position known at the time. Concerning the obstacles in the way of the cease-fire, he said: Efforts continue in order to achieve a solution.

Former Prime Minister Salam said: We are now preoccupied with these matters which have been mentioned by His Excellency Prime Minister al-Huss. Regarding the south, there are two main points: first, the completion of the Israeli withdrawal and second, providing the refugees relief and returning them to their homes.

Former Prime Minister Salam added: While we repeat our call to all men of good will to return to their senses and to resort to wisdom and patience in order to avert further destruction and the taking of innocent lives, I find the deterrent force to be the sole sound means for imposing the control of the legitimate government and ending the present fighting between brothers. The legitimate government has nothing at its disposal other than this force, whose burden has been extensively borne by our Arab brothers, particularly Syria. The Syrian officials have stated several times that this entire force is at the disposal of Lebanese legitimacy and it would not be wrong for all citizens to respect the Lebanese legitimate force, but it is totally wrong for anyone to disown this force when it tries to prevent the fighting between brothers and to impose the required legitimacy.

AL-HUSS MAKES STATEMENT ON UN, ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

NC130855Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today called for joint efforts to put an end to whatever obstructs the security process in the country.

Asked about the Arab deterrent forces' role in imposing security, Prime Minister al-Huss stressed the need of cooperating with these forces, which are the lawful security force, and of assisting them in implementing all the measures adopted against those attempting to harm Lebanon.

Prime Minister al-Huss said: Our concern must be directed toward the immediate evacuation of the Israeli aggressor. We will allow nothing to prevent or hinder this.

Speaking about the situation in the south, in relation to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution, Prime Minister al-Huss said: The Lebanese State is fully committed to the UN Security Council resolution which clearly provides for the withdrawal of the Israeli invading forces from southern Lebanon and replacing them with the UN forces preparatory to handing over the area to the lawful authority and to restoring Lebanese sovereignty in the area.

Al-Huss added: As I have previously asserted at the recent parliamentary session, the government is determined to assume its full responsibility in the southern area, where no sovereignty will be above that of the state and no authority above that of the legitimate authority.

Prime Minister al-Huss concluded his statement by welcoming the visit of UN Secretary General Dr Waldheim to Lebanon next week. He expressed the hope that Waldheim's contacts will lead to speeding up the Israeli forces' withdrawal from southern Lebanon and to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution.

U.S. ENVOY MEETS CHRISTIAN LEADERS, MAKES STATEMENT

NC122154Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC

[Text] After his meeting today with Pierre al-Jumayyil, former President Charles Hilu and Lawyer Shakir Abu Sulayman, U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker expressed his belief that the partial Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon has been completed. He said that he expects the total withdrawal to be implemented in the second stage and that the UN forces in Lebanon will be strengthened. Ambassador Parker added that U.S. military aid [to Lebanon] is within the limit of $25 million and that another $75 million will be added to this aid.

Concerning the U.S. attitude on the question of raising the Lebanese issue in international circles, Parker said: I have no comments on this subject.

ARAB DETERRENT FORCES COMMANDER MAKES STATEMENT

NC121226Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Arab deterrent forces commander Lt Col Sami al-Khatib left the presidential palace at 1330. He said the situation is somewhat difficult but nothing is impossible. He added: We are dealing with the matter. New measures will be taken and announced. Answering a question, he said: There are always undisciplined elements causing tension.

DETERRENT FORCES SPOKESMAN ON BEIRUT SITUATION

NC121937Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Asked about the security situation in the Ash-Shiyah-'Ayn ar-Rummanah area, a responsible source of the Arab deterrent forces command said: Snipers and uncontrolled elements today continued to fire on Arab deterrent forces in that area in order to hinder their mission, thus compelling these forces to respond in order to stop the firing. The source added: It should be noted that these elements are disturbing the security situation.

The Arab deterrent forces command warns the citizens against giving shelter to these elements, aiding them or failing to report them to the authorities. The command is tackling the situation with the seriousness it deserves, in order to keep it at the smallest possible scale, and will adopt new measures which will be announced in time.

PATRIOTIC FRONT SUPPORTS DETERRENT FORCES

JN130609Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The Central Command of the Lebanese Patriotic Front has stressed that the Arab deterrent forces are the legitimate party entrusted with providing security in the Lebanese arena against any party trying to make the situation explode.

In a statement following its meeting yesterday, the Central Command stated that all efforts must revolve around the essential battle of opposing the Israeli occupation. The statement further added that Syrian-Palestinian cohesion is a national and pan-Arab necessity to face the Zionist conspiracies and plots in the area. It is necessary to establish a solid front, with Syria as the main basis, for the liberation of the territories and the recovery of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

STATEMENT ISSUED BY NATIONALIST MOVEMENT LEADERS

JN121811Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The Central Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement yesterday issued a statement strongly denouncing the suspicious behavior of certain local forces which contradict the simplest considerations and pan-Arab commitment toward Lebanon--the homeland, people and cause.

The Nationalist Movement asserted that the Zionist enemy will not implement UN Security Council Resolution No 425, which calls for the total and immediate withdrawal from Lebanese territory. The movement added that the talk about a partial withdrawal by the invaders is merely an attempt to reduce the increasing Arab and international pressure on the Zionist racist entity. The statement of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement adds that the enemy, who has occupied a large part of southern Lebanon, will not withdraw from it so simply and will try to impose his political presence on the developments of the Lebanese domestic situation with the aim of influencing the nationalist will.

The Central Council of the Nationalist Movement called on all the political and parliamentary personalities and forces in Lebanon to unify their ranks to confront the last plot--a plot that has been exposed by its call for reopening the Palestinian file. The statement adds that the sole nationalist course is to close all files and to depend on a single course--resisting the occupation and liberating the land.

WALDHEIM TO MEET WITH PALESTINIANS IN BEIRUT

JN130846Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 13 April--It was stated here today that UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim will meet with a number of Palestinian officials during his visit to Beirut at the end of this week. The newspaper AN-NAHAR reports that it is likely that Waldheim will meet with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The paper points out that the UN secretary general will visit southern Lebanon in order to form a clear picture of the situation prior to the UN General Assembly meeting, scheduled to take place on 20 April, to discuss the question of the Zionist withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

AFP: UN 'RESERVED' ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

TA121318Y Paris AFP in English 1256 GMT 12 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Beirut, April 12 (AFP)--The announcement of an Israeli withdrawal in southern Lebanon covering an area 12 kilometres long (7.5 miles) by two to five kms (1.25 to 3 miles) deep has been received with reserve by the United Nations at Beirut.

U.N. official spokesman Samir Sambar said here today, "There is still no information concerning a withdrawal." He did, however, confirm that Norwegian peacekeeping troops have for the past two days been in "the areas the Israelis were supposed to quit." Journalists based in Beirut were not able yesterday to go into the 'Urqub region where the Israeli withdrawal was said to be taking place.

Lacking precise information, it seems the Israelis have turned over seven villages to U.N. troops, but are continuing to man strategic positions in hills dominating these villages, allowing them to maintain control of the region and prevent any guerrilla infiltration attempts.

SYRIA REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO RECEIVE BUTRUS

NC130933Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0917 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 13 April--In a dispatch from Beirut, the Kuwait newspaper AL-ANBA' reports today that the visit of Lebanese Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus to Damascus, which was scheduled to take place today, has been postponed to a later date. The paper says that the postponement came after the Syrians refused to receive the Lebanese minister. He was informed by the Syrian officials that they are very busy at present.

INA: NATIONALIST MOVEMENT INVITED TO MOSCOW

JN120918Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0731 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 12 April--The Lebanese Nationalist Movement has received an official invitation from the CPSU to send a delegation to Moscow. Nationalist Movement sources said that the invitation has been accepted and that the visit will take place during the last week of this month.

CUBAN AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH COMMUNIST LEADERS

FL122330Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2259 GMT 12 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Cuban Ambassador to Lebanon Alberto Velazco has met in Beirut with George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, and other leaders of the organization. During the talks, the present situation in that country as a result of the Israeli invasion and the friendship relations existing between Cuba's and Lebanon's Communist Parties were discussed. Velazco also met with Walid Junblatt, chief of the Progressive Socialist Party

AFP: ISRAELI SOLDIER KILLED IN CLASH NEAR TYRE

TA121255Y Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT 12 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Tel Aviv, April 12 (AFP)--An Israeli solider was killed overnight in the western sector of occupied southern Lebanon in a clash with Palestinian guerrillas, an Israeli military communique announced today. The guerrillas had infiltrated Israeli-occupied territory from the Tyre sector, the communique said.

IRAQIS BLAMED FOR NEW FLAREUP IN BEIRUT

NC121330Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Official reports indicate that Iraqi armed men, who came to Lebanon on the pretext of fighting Israel in southern Lebanon, have arrived in Beirut and its suburbs to cause a flareup in the Ash-Shiyah-'Ayn ar-Rummanah front.

BEIRUT HOSPITAL REPORTEDLY BOMBARDED

TA121553Y Paris AFP in English 1537 GMT 12 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Beirut, April 12 (AFP)--The Al-Hayat hospital in conservative held south eastern suburbs of the city was heavily bombarded today, conservative sources said as shelling in the area intensified.

A hospital employee confirmed that the building had been seriously damaged and that staff and patients had taken cover in the basement. Among them were several women and children who were in a state of panic, the employee said, adding there are certainly several victims. The hospital has maternity and surgical departments, and some of the patients were evacuated yesterday in view of the worsening situation in the Ash-Shiyah-'Ayn ar-Rumannah sector.

Earlier today, artillery shells fell haphazardly in the streets of the Ash-Shiyah (progressive) district and in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah where the civil war began exactly three years ago. There were also clashes between conservative forces and Syrian troops of the Arab dissuasion force using tanks.

LOSSES MOUNT AS RESULT OF BEIRUT CLASHES

NC121800Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Intense artillery shelling is continuing at this time. The shelling is coming from various points in the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah-Ash-Shiyah area, Badaru, and Furn ash-Shubbak. It has been reported that the deterrent forces are opening fire with heavy weapons in order to bring the situation under control. As a result of the shelling a number of buildings and vehicles were destroyed or set on fire, particularly in areas far from the front.

About 12 people have been killed in the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah area. By this evening two others were killed by sniper fire in Badaru area and more than 30 were wounded as a result of the clashes. A number of vechicles and buildings were hit and set on fire.

About 15 communists were killed in the area of Dunya Cinema in Ash-Shiyah. Five bodies were still lying on the ground this evening.

BEIRUT RADIO: CLASHES CONTINUING; AIRPORT OPEN

NC121830Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Clashes continued this evening in the Ash-Shiyah-'Ayn ar-Rummanah area. The Arab deterrent forces are continuing to return the fire in accordance with the communique on this subject issued by the Arab deterrent forces command.

Meanwhile, official efforts and contacts are continuing in an effort to deal with the situation in the Ash-Shiyah-'Ayn ar-Rummanah area. On this occasion we call on the public not to listen to rumors which some are trying to disseminate in order to sow fear and confusion. Contrary to the false rumor that Beirut airport was closed this afternoon, it is operating normally and what has been said about its closure is completely untrue.

BEIRUT REPORTED CALM 0530 GMT 13 APRIL

NC130655Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The intensive political contacts which were held at the highest level yesterday have led to calming the situation in the Ash-Shiyah-'Ayn ar-Rummanah area where the clashes began easing last night, except for sporadic fire which is still being heard in the area.

Political efforts will be resumed and the measures adopted by the Arab peace-keeping forces will be implemented in order to contain the consequences of the recent events and put an end to them. Some schools in Beirut will remain closed today.

CLASHES IN BEIRUT RESUME AT DAWN 13 APRIL

Voice of Lebanon Reports

NC130717Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The situation was relatively calm in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah last night. There was, however, sporadic small arms and RPG rocket fire. Artillery fire was resumed at dawn today against the area. One wonders why against 'Ayn ar-Rummanah alone. Are there no arms or fighters except in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah? The citizens are asking about the meaning of these actions and provocations.

At 0530 today, sniper fire on 'Ayn ar-Rummanah streets was resumed from the Ash-Shiyah area. The sound of artillery and rocket fire is being heard even now. The communists and their allies are attempting to continue their provocations on the fourth anniversary of the battle in the Ar-Rummanah area.

It is reported that as a result of the shelling some houses of peaceful citizens in Hursh al-Kufuri and Badaru area are on fire.

Beirut Radio 0700 GMT

NC130729Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Text] All efforts are being devoted to ease the tension resulting from the security situation in southern Beirut where clashes break out at times and where the Arab deterrent forces are trying to control the situation and establish a cease-fire.

Voice of Lebanon 0815 GMT

NC130858Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The artillery shelling which took place between 0530 and 0830 today against 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Badaru and At-Tayyunah areas has now stopped. However, there is sniper fire directed on the streets in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah from some positions.

INA 0830 GMT

JN130905Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 13 April--Shooting resumed in the Ash-Shiyah-'Ayn ar-Rummanah area in the early hours of this morning and snipers have become increasingly active. The sound of explosions and firing from mortars, tanks and heavy machineguns is heard in the southern Beirut quarter, which has been the scene of continuous clashes since last Sunday.

It seems the efforts which were exerted all day yesterday and last night to reach a cease-fire have failed. The meetings which were held between the command of the Arab deterrent forces on the one hand and leaders of the Phalangist and National Liberal parties on the other also failed to achieve any results.

While the command of the Arab deterrent forces says that its forces will fire back at any sources of fire, the rightist parties have declared a state of extreme alert. Schools, institutes and factories have closed down in the eastern quarter of Beirut.

It was reported here that the exchange of fire has so far resulted in the death of 35 persons, the wounding of 240 others and the destruction of several buildings in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Furn ash-Shubbak.

According to today's reports, the rightist front has brought in large numbers of its fighters from southern Lebanon. They came in by sea via Juniyah and are being deployed in the various axes.

The INA correspondent says that five of the wounded civilians who were removed to the al-Barbir hospital yesterday died today from their wounds.

INA REPORTS ISRAELI ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH

JN131025Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0942 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Bierut, 13 April--Travelers from southern Lebanon say that the Zionist enemy has adopted wide-scale measures to change the area's characteristics. Several Arab villages have been given Hebrew names. Israeli currency has replaced Lebanese currency and the area has been linked to Zionist settlements in the occupied territory.

The travelers also said that one of the enemy commanders has held a series of meetings with the residents of occupied southern Lebanon in which he confirmed that Israel will not withdraw and that they have to carry out the instructions of the Israeli army.

ISRAELI USE OF RADIOACTIVE MONITORING DEVICE CLAIMED

JN121342Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] SANA has learned that the booby trapped Israeli wireless monitoring device which was discovered on 1 April 1978 and which exploded, causing the martyrdom of several civilians and military personnel, was equipped with nuclear cells [khalaya dharriyah] and attached to the cable which links Damascus with Amman. It was attached to monitor telephone calls.

The military experts who searched the scene of the explosiion discovered nuclear cells of a modern U.S. make operated by radioactive elements which are internationally banned for military purposes in view of their extreme danger to human life.

The investigation also revealed that the device had been recently planted--only 3-5 days before it was discovered by our forces.

SANA has also learned that command of the UN Disengagement Observation Force examined the scene of the explosion after receiving the Syrian complaint against the Israeli crime. It saw the nuclear cells which are internationally banned.

While exposing these facts concerning the Israeli criminal act and its contravention of international rules, Syria considers the enemy's utilization of nuclear cells which operate on radioactive elements a new and serious fact in the course of the Arab-Zionist conflict. Israel bears all the consequences of this serious act.

CABINET CONVENES, DISCUSSES VARIOUS ISSUES

JN121444Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 12 April--The cabinet held a meeting at 1000 today under Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi. At the beginning of the session, the prime minister pointed out that the new cabinet will draw up programs to implement the concepts that were dealt with by President Hafiz al-Asad in his speech before the People's Assembly on the occasion of the assumption of his constitutional power.

The prime minister also pointed out the general outlines included in the president's speech regarding various fields. He said that the cabinet will program its tasks in light of the president's instructions so as to implement these instructions.

The prime minister added that confidence, cooperation and work will act to organize the cabinet's work in the next stage.

The prime minister then spoke about the work plan and said that this plan will basically center on formulating methods and policies. He urged all appropriate committees to commence work immediately.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister then spoke about the situation in Lebanon and the latest developments in the Arab political situation.

The deputy prime minister for economic affairs reviewed the economic situation in Syria. The deputy prime minister for services affairs dealt with the measures that have so far been adopted in the field of housing.

At the end of the session, the prime minister expressed his thanks for the efforts of Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi during his term. He wished the ministers continued success. The cabinet session ended at 1200 today.

AL-ASAD RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM ALGERIAN PRESIDENT

JN111213Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1215 today President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abd al-Hamid al-Mahri, under secretary of the Algerian Ministry of Education. During the meeting, the Algerian official conveyed a message to President al-Asad from President Houari Boumediene. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

The talk during the meeting revolved around the current Arab situation and the means that are bound to strengthen the position of the front of steadfastness and confrontation vis-a-vis the current challenges.

DAMASCUS RADIO EXPLAINS, DEFENDS SYRIAN POLICY

JN121758Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

['Amid Khuli commentary: "Syria's Only Problem is To Say Yes Once"]

[Excerpts] Syria knows well that its only problem with the enemies of its nation and the cause of its main troubles is that it is tiresome. If Syria were to say yes to what is going on in the area, then there would be no problems at all for Syria. Syria well realizes that the only reason Damascus is a crossroad for all (?formulas) and plans is that Syria says no when it must definitely be said. Syria also says yes when it must be said. This is because Syria adopts sincere stands and rejects political maneuvers which others excell in. These others reject, but from capitulatory positions, which actually means that they capitulate; they agree to positions when the simplest pan-Arab commitments require them to say "no."

Syria's problem has become well known, namely, it puts into action its convictions which are declared at the pan-Arab level. Syria rejects from a position of actual sacrifices and real giving to the battle proceeding from a standpoint of shouldering heavy material burdens. Syria does not reject from a standpoint of easy and free rejection over the radio and through statements. Such rejection would eventually serve hostile plans.

Syria says "yes" out of self-confidence and of faith in the sincerity and soundness of its stand and clear vision whereas others excercise their convictions wrongly. This is Syria's only problem. Syria knows well its problem and knows that moving its stand toward the other direction would mean an end to all that Syria is currently being subjected to economically, politically and militarily.

Syria's problem is that it cannot bow to schemes and plots and that it follows its convictions effectively and genuinely because these represent the conscience of our masses. Syria inspires the conscience of our nation by adopting these genuine stands.

We realize that Syria is not asked more than to behave like the others and is not asked to emulate their practices of false rejection and acceptance. [sentence as heard] Then there would be absolutely no problems for Syria. Syria, however, is not willing to do that and will not do that. Syria believes that its pan-Arab destiny and responsibilities toward the masses is that of shoudering this responsibility proundly and stubbornly.

Syria's problem is that it realizes that stopping the various forms of plots currently being conducted against Syria is its real problem. The constant plots against Syria by the enemies of our nation are an indication of the soundness of its national and pan-Arab stands. Otherwise there would be no problems for Syria.

Syria's hypersensitivity to this matter does not make it worry about its course, but does prompt Syria to pause and review its stands so as to rectify its stands and assess the stands of the enemies. Syria is dissatisfied when the enemies are satisfied with it. What satisfies Syria is to see the Arab masses satisfied and to embody the aspirations of these masses. Because Syria is adhering to this stand, the enemies will always have hostile aims. This is exactly what Syria wants.

Syria said "no" to the 101-km talks, to the first Sinai agreement and to the setback Sinai agreement. It was hoped that Syria would say "yes" or at least keep silent about what was going on. However, Syria said "no" and was prepared to bear the consequences of saying that. For this reason the Lebanese war was aimed at frustrating Syria's "no" and its political and military standpoints and at undertaking revenge against Syria.

It would have sufficed for Syria to say "yes" once and bargain over either of the two principles it stipulated for the establishment of a just peace, that is, complete withdrawal and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights. Then everything would be over. It would have been enough for Syria to accept a U.S. peace and court the United States to meet some of its economic requirements, and then everything would be over. However, Syria, under leader Al-Asad has refused and will continue to refuse to say something without meaning it and putting it into practice. Syria under leader Al-Asad will refuse to say a word except when it must be said and put into practice.

Thus, Syria's problem is that it is now paying the price for its steadfastness and principled stands. Syria will pay this proudly. However, Syria will not allow anyone to harm the security and dignity of its citizens.

Naturally, the dirty and condemnable method of assassination is one of the forms of this price. It is the toll of steadfastness and principles stands. It is natural that many forces are planning and carrying out this method and many other forces are benefiting from it. These forces are well known. However, does it not occur to most of us to ask with bitter suspicion: why Syria in particular? Why is this method not carried out in other Arab countries? Why is it not adopted in Iraq or Egypt, for instance, or in any other country not concerned with the battle with the enemy? Is this question unjustified? Does it not reveal the basic purpose behind such a method? Whatever stand Syria is adopting and whatever the assessment of Syria's stand is, is not this method intended to shake the steadfastness of this country? They want to weaken Syria's stand and have it say one "yes" so that the problem will be over.

However, let it be known to everyone that this method will not weaken Syria and Syria will not say "yes." Syria does not think of relinquishing its steadfastness and principles. Syria also will not be lenient with the criminals any time or at any place.

DEFENSE MINISTER RECEIVES CANADIAN CHIEF OF STAFF

JN122008Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--This evening Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the army and armed forces and defense minister, received Admiral (?R.H. Falls) Chief of Staff of the Canadian Army and Armed Forces and the delegation accompanying him. Brig Gen 'Adnan Tayyarah, chief of the Syrian delegation to the Joint Armistice Committee, attended the meeting.

LIBYA

CHAD PRESIDENT CABLES THANKS TO AL-QADHDHAFI

LD122325Y Tripoli JANA in English 1840 GMT 12 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, April 12, JANA--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Al-Fatah [One] September Revolution, has received a cable from President Felix Malloum of Chad in which the president thanked him for the warm hospitality given to him and his accompanying delegation during their visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. President Malloum said: This visit has offered us the opportunity to exchange views on problems which concern our two countries. I am sure that friendly relations and brotherly links between our two countries will be strengthened.

MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT 13 APRIL

LD122212Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1743 GMT 12 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--JANA has learned that the president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Mokhtar Ould Daddah, will tomorrow begin an official visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah that will go for several days.

MOROCCO

SUDANESE MINISTER OF STATE DEPARTS AFTER TALKS

LD122100Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] This afternoon Hasan 'Izz ad-Din Hamid, Sudanese minister of state for the presidency, left Nouasir airport at the end of a visit to our country during which he delivered a personal message from President Numayri to His Majesty King Hassan II. His talks with officials in Morocco dealt with relations and cooperation between the two countries and problems of Africa and the Middle East.

SUDAN

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION STATEMENT SIGNED

JN121829Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1648 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpts] **Khartoum**, 12 April--The statement which was signed in London today by Abu al-Qasim Hashim, speaker of the Sudanese People's Assembly, and Ash-Sharif Husayn al-Hindi affirms that Sudan's foreign policy is based on the principles of positive neutrality. The statement further says that at this critical stage, Sudan--in accordance with its historic role--is entrusted with bolstering and unifying Arab action to regain the occupied territories and to enable the Palestinian people to (?regain) their legitimate and national rights, as well as to establish their independent state.

The statement praised Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri's initiative to build the homeland, combat (?inflation), and expedite social and economic development. The statement says that the permanent Sudanese constitution is the basic law of rule, as stipulated in chapter eight. It is the basis of justice in the country.

The statement says that the solution of the problem in the south--which has bled the country's financial and human resources for 17 years--is a patriotic and revolutionary act [words indistinct] the course of political action and economic integration as the basis for comprehensive Arab integration.

In the statement it was decided to dissolve the National Front. Agreement was also reached on the return of all the members of the front, particularly the fighters, and the removal of all camps in all areas. A decision was also reached to hand over all weapons and equipment in the country and abroad to the Sudanese people's armed forces.

The statement decided to put a final end to the period of violence, conflict, fragmentation and dispersal.

Agreement Praised

JN121833Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1640 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 12 April--Following the signing of an agreement in London today to consolidate and entrench national unity, People's Assembly Speaker Abu al-Qasim Hashim announced that all Sudanese citizens abroad will soon return to Sudan. He said that all his meetings with the Sudanese there were pervaded with an atmosphere of sincere national spirit which has ended all differences and conflicts.

Ash-Sharif Husayn al-Hindi, who participated in signing the agreement, affirmed that the agreement is the result of President Numayri's courageous initiative. He said that it will contribute to stability, prosperity and progress in Sudan. He announced that he will return to the homeland soon and that he will agree with the brother Sudanese there on the dates of return to Sudan.

The Sudanese Embassy in London has made all the arrangements necessary for the return of the Sudanese there.

Further Report

LD121905Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Text] To crown the initiative of leader President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri toward national unity, a new step on the road of building national unity was achieved through a historic agreement concluded in London today between Abu al-Qasim Hashim, Maj Gen 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid and Fath ar-Rahman al-Bashir on the one hand, and Ash-Sharif Husayn al-Hindi, 'Abd al-Majid Abu Hasabu, Ahmad Zayn al-Abidin, Ahmad Uthman Muhammad Khayr, Muhammad Salih Uthman Salih, Ahmad Abdullah, and a number of brothers solicitous of the interest of the country and the success of the initiative of the leader president on the other.

The agreement, in essence, stipulates the dissolution of the National Front, the liquidation of the camps of opposing acts, the return of the brother emigres to Sudan to participate with their brothers in carrying the burdens of the current phase, and to prepare the right climate for them to take part in the building of the nation and its progress.

The agreement was signed during a press conference held this morning at the Sudanese Embassy in London. The conference was attended by the world news agencies, the British, international, and Arab press, and journalists visiting Britain. The brothers attending the conference answered questions put to them by the press.

Abu al-Qasim Hashim, 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid and Ash-Sharif Husayn al-Hamdi and Maj Gen 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib made statements to SUNA in which they hailed the agreement and the sincere national spirit which pervaded the meetings attended by the two sides and the wish of all to maintain the spirit of the noble initiative of President Numayri with the object of bringing together all the national energies, especially in the field of national interest, so that all will work in the service of the homeland to take it forward toward growth and prosperity.

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI TO MEET WITH AL-QADHDHAFI

JN130829Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0808 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Tripoli, 13 April--The INA correspondent in Tripoli has learned that Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri will visit the Libyan Jamahiriyah early next week. President Numayri will hold talks with Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on what is termed the restoration of Arab solidarity.

TUNISIA

NEW AFRICAN AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS

LD071557Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 1 Apr 78 p 2 LD

[Summary] On 31 March President Habib Bourguiba received the credentials of three new ambassadors: Mr Georges Dove Edwin of Nigeria, Mr Salifou Soumaila of Niger and Mr Justin Tenahagali of Rwanda.

WESTERN SAHARA

INFORMATION MINISTER DENOUNCES MOROCCO, MAURITANIA

LD070659Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 28 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Brahim Atouchichet report on Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Information Minister Salem Ould Salek's 27 March press conference at POLISARIO headquarters in Algiers: "Any Support for Moroccan and Mauritarian Expansionism Is a Provocation Against Africa"]

[Excerpt] "Despite the policy of genocide and extermination followed by the Moroccan and Mauritanian aggressors in towns occupied by the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] and the policy of repression applied against our nationals in Morocco and Mauritania, the Saharan people," Mr Salem Ould Salek said, "Have shown their unity everywhere and their determination to win respect for their liberty and independence like all the peoples of the world."

The Saharan information minister pointed out that by persisting in their policies the Moroccan and Mauritanian governments "are more isolated than ever within the OAU."

Since the Saharan soldiers are inflicting increasingly severe losses in men and equipment on the aggressive Moroccan and Mauritanian troops and in view of the weaknesses in their ranks which have appeared in the field, "the Moroccan and Mauritanian governments," Mr Salem Ould Salek said, "have brought a non-African country into the conflict."

The Saharan minister recalled that "the recent liberation committee conference and the OAU Council of Ministers conference held in Tripoli solemnly condemned French intervention."

Asked whether French "Jaguars" have intervened in recent weeks against Saharan Popular Liberation Army troops operating in SDAR occupied territory, the Saharan minister said that the French aircraft are continually flying over Western Saharan territories. But, he said, this is not effective since it no longer has a surprise effect on our troops, as was the case in December 1977.

The French intervention against our people is an unacceptable foreign interference in Africa and this interference is condemned by our continent, he said. Mr Ould Salek went on to say that the French Government should withdraw all its troops from the region. Its role should not be one of opting for one side in the conflict but of respecting the principle of neutrality which it continually proclaims.

As regards Morocco's request for arms, Mr Ould Salek stressed that "any support for Moroccan and Mauritanian expansionism is a provocation against Africa as well as being a serious threat to stability. Restoring national rights to the Saharan people is a contribution toward strengthening the security and stability of small states in the region."

With reference to the Spanish Government, which signed the November 1975 tripartite Madrid agreements recognizing the division of the Western Sahara between Morocco and Mauritania, the SDAR information minister declared that Spain "is continuing its treacherous and cowardly policy with regard to our country.

"The Madrid government is really responsible for Moroccan-Mauritanian aggression and it will continue to be so while the Saharan people are deprived of their fundamental rights," he added.

GROUP DENOUNCES ALGERIA IN LETTER TO CARTER

LD061415Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 31 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[MAP report: "The AOSARIO Denounces the Algerian Government's Continued Crimes Against the Tindouf Detainees"]

[Text] Paris, 30 March--In an open letter to President Carter and U.S. senators (signed A. Ahmed Ould Rachid), the Association of Saharan Nationals Formerly Under Spanish Domination [AOSARIO] denounces the Algerian Government's continued crimes against the Tindouf detainees which violate the Charter on Human Rights.

The letter says: "At the present time hundreds of our brothers are still being subjected to dreadful deprivation, inhuman treatment and cruel domination by the Algerian military security and regular army, whose mission is to insure permanent encirclement and infiltration of the concentration camps installed by the Algerian Government in Tindouf and the surrounding district. While women, old people and children among these detainees are suffering from disease and the harsh effects of prolonged detention, our association, which includes the liberation movements and political parties petitioning the United Nations, feels dutybound to inform American public opinion and draw its attention to the crimes which the Algerian Government is still committing contrary to the Charter on Human Rights."

"Mr President: women, children and men have been suffering and dying for more than 2 years. These men and women are our compatriots, our brothers and our relatives, detained against their will by a dictatorial government which is encouraging a fratricidal war against neighboring countries out of grotesque dreams of "leadership." Our compatriots are now imprisoned in Algerian camps where they have fallen prey to disease, hunger, the harsh conditions of the desert and despair.

The adults, in other words the most physically able group, who are conscious of the aims for which Algeria is using them, are quite simply executed when found or suspected of trying to escape from the camps. Some officials enjoying a relatively flexible status have been able to escape from the Algerian troops and return to their country. The latter have suggested many times that they should be seen by international organizations to give evidence of the atrocities and tragedies experienced by these hostages, described as "refugees" by a government which obstinately refuses to carry out an official census in accordance with the Geneva convention."

The letter points out that these Tindouf detainees were brought back forcibly by the Algerian Army, which occupied positions within the former Spanish Sahara before 1975.

"Thanks to evidence given by the French hostages captured at Zouerate and then locked in Algerian military prisons and only released when the French Senate exerted pressure by threatening to cancel economic agreements between Algeria and the EEC," it continues, "international public opinion has been able to discover the true objectives and supremist intentions of a government which has managed to use our imprisoned brothers as a political trump card serving its own ends. This Machiavellian behavior is particularly odious when one considers that these women, children and men, all civilians, have been torn from their land, country and families to act as hostages."

AOSARIO ends by asking the U.S. Government to intervene to try and lift the security network preventing the Tindouf detainees from returning to their country.

POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE REPORTS NUMEROUS OPERATIONS

LD121114Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 12 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] According to a POLISARIO front communique published last night, the Saharan People's Liberation Army launched numerous operations on the northern and southern fronts against the troops of aggression and occupation during the month of March. Unable to impose their colonial order, the occupiers attacked the civilian population, putting them in prison and concentration camps.

BRIEFS

GDR FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION IN LIBYA--The delegation of the GDR-Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah society led by its chairman, Prof Joerg Vorholzer, which has been in the Libyan capital of Tripoli since the middle of last week, was received for a talk by (Ahmed Shehati), head of the General People's Congress office and head of the Foreign Relations Bureau. During the friendly exchange of opinions the sides stressed their identical positions on the struggle against imperialism, neocolonialism, Zionism and racism. On this occasion (Ahmed Shehati) condemned the FRG's imperialist policy in Africa, which is clearly reflected in the establishment of military bases and in the support of South Africa's nuclear armament. Both sides stressed the need for a joint struggle of all anti-imperialist and peace-loving forces against the neutron bomb. [East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 10 Apr 78 p 2 AU]

PRESS SPECULATES ON NEXT WEIZMAN TRIP TO CAIRO

13 April 'AL HAMISHMAR

TA130921Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Text] Political circles think that the next high-level contact over the formulation of the declaration of principles between Egypt and Israel will be during a meeting between Prime Minister M. Begin and U.S. President Jimmy Carter at the beginning of May. These circles are assuming--following the lack of an invitation by President as-Sadat to Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman to visit Cairo this week--that an As-Sadat-Weizman meeting will take place only after the Begin-Carter talks in Washington.

It appears that Egypt and Israel are now in a situation where each side expects the other to show flexibility in its positions. Jerusalem is not calling this situation a "freeze," but it admits that Egypt is expecting Israeli replies and Israel is expecting Egyptian replies, while to date--it is claimed--there has been no move on Egypt's part since As-Sadat's speech in the Knesset and Israel has made its position more flexible all along the way and is "giving way all the time." Accordingly, Jerusalem is saying that if Weizman receives an invitation from President as-Sadat "even today," he will go. In fact, speaking practically, "there is nothing to talk about, because neither side has anything to say to the other."

The political circles pointed out that quiet diplomacy between Israel and Egypt has been going on all the time on the ambassadorial level. Within the framework of these quiet contacts various possibilities are being examined, which are likely to be crystallized into new ideas to be put forward in the Begin-Carter meeting and which will facilitate a renewal of the direct dialog with Egypt.

13 April MA'ARIV

TA130922Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[By Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] Security circles said this morning that reports from Cairo about an expected visit by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman within the next 48 hours have, at this stage, no foundation. Up to now no Egyptian invitation has reached Israel.

However, the possibility cannot be dismissed that the Egyptians will indeed send an invitation to the defense minister to continue the talks between him and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat.

In order to continue the talks and get them onto practical tracks, the governments of Egypt and Israel will have to make a series of decisions. In the meantime there is a freeze in that sphere and, as it appears this week, this situation is preventing progress in the political negotiations.

WEIZMAN DEMANDS GOVERNMENT ACTION ON PEACE PLANS

TA130630Y Jerusalem POST in English 13 Apr p 1, 2 TA

[By Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman has intimated to those around him during the past few days that unless there is some serious decision-making in the cabinet, he will not be prepared to renew his Cairo shuttle.

The minister has made it clear that it is impossible for him to continue meeting the Egyptians without taking with him some substantive Israeli counter-proposal to the Egyptian demands for the return of all of Sinai and self-determination for the population of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

To date the government has taken no formal decision on exactly what it is prepared to relinquish in Sinai--decisions which are necessary, Weizman feels, if discussions with the Egyptians are to be placed in a constructive framework, and if the discussions are to progress from the "clarifying" stage.

The minister has also intimated--not for the first time--that he may consider resigning unless the government embarks on a course of thinking on the issue of peace which is closer to his personal perception. His deadline is said to be "after Pessah." [Passover]

Weizman has been at odds with several members of the cabinet, specifically Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon, on how to handle the As-Sadat initiative. He is generally believed to have threatened openly to resign in a phone call from New York in early March, after Sharon allegedly continued to establish settlements in Judaea and Samaria, despite an informal government decision to freeze all settlement during the negotiating process.

When questioned last night, a highly placed source close to the defense minister said it was true that the minister intends to seek a clear-cut policy in the government before he travels to Egypt again. But it is not true that he intends to resign after Pessah, the source said.

The POST has learned, however, that the minister has said clearly that unless he is satisfied that this process is taken seriously by the cabinet, he will resign.

Meanwhile, a knowledgeable foreign source expressed the opinion to the Jerusalem POST earlier this week in keeping the Weizman shuttle alive because each visit illustrates to the Americans just how intransigent Israel is being--and, conversely, how forthcoming the Egyptians are in contrast.

The source said that by continuing to shuttle to Cairo without bringing hard Israeli proposals, Weizman was playing directly into the Egyptians' hands, and making As-Sadat's life a lot easier vis-a-vis the American administration and public.

Our political reporter adds:

The Democratic Movement for Change will shortly take up with Prime Minister Begin its demand that Israel be prepared to make a territorial compromise with Jordan over the West Bank.

The DMC council, on April 2, instructed its ministers and Knesset faction to strive to ensure that "this policy be adopted by the government."

At yesterday's council meeting here, party leader Deputy Prime Minister Yigal'el Yadin was asked what he had done to implement that decision. Yadin replied that talks with the prime minister on the question are expected shortly.

WEIZMAN ATTACKED AS AS-SADAT'S 'TROJAN HORSE'

TA130710Y Jerusalem POST in English 13 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Tel Aviv--A member of the La'am Executive accused Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman of being "a Trojan horse" in the government, serving Egypt's President Anwar as-Sadat.

The attack was published in the movement's official organ which appears today. La'am is one of the partners in the Likud bloc to which Weizman belongs.

Asked whether the attack reflects the view of the Land of Israel Group in La'am, MK Moshe Shamir noted that his group believes Weizman fits into the war of attrition As-Sadat is waging against Israel, although he is not doing so willingly. But Shamir did not say the attack reflects the overriding view in La'am.

RADIO NOTES CARTER MENTION OF JERUSALEM AS CAPITAL

TA122117Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 12 Apr 78 TA

[Excerpt] For the first time in 30 years a U.S. President publicly and in an official speech referred to Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. This took place at a reception that President Carter held for his Romanian colleague, Nicolae Ceausescu. President Carter praised Ceausescu for his role in organizing the historic visit of Egyptian president to the capital of Israel--Jerusalem. Correspondents point out that in answer to their questions the White House refused to react to President Carter's remarks.

FALSE TERRORIST ALARM FOILED; YOUTHS ARRESTED

TA122111Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 12 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Three youths suspected of conspiring to broadcast a false report on a terrorist attack--like the report broadcast on Sunday--were arrested today by the Pardes Kaz police. A clerk in a commercial firm informed the police that she heard calls for help on their communications network. She regarded this as strange. The police began a comprehensive search and an hour later they found a vehicle from the company and three youths nearby. They have been arrested on suspicion of car theft and of causing network disturbance.

Our correspondent Gabi Bron reports that the police investigation into the report about a terrorist attack on Sunday is continuing. The police are examining all vehicles carrying communications equipment and all communications equipment registered in the State of Israel.

DAVAR ASSESSES IDF WITHDRAWAL FROM S. LEBANON

TA121141Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Apr 78 p 7 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] The first phase of the IDF withdrawal from southern Lebanon started yesterday. If the withdrawal proceeds according to plan, by the end of this week the IDF presence will be limited to the area of the Christian enclaves. Israel has pledged to evacuate these enclaves in a second stage.

The withdrawal of IDF forces from Lebanon is imperative. Any other option would place Israel in an impossible political situation. At the same time, however, one should not delude oneself regarding the results of the IDF stay in the region. The deployment of the UN buffer forces between the Israeli border and a strip under terrorist control does not guarantee an end to terrorist activity from the border zone or from other areas. Also the Christian villages, which enjoyed IDF patronage during the occupation, cannot see in the UN forces a guarantee against terrorist repossession. The arrival of UN troops limits to a certain degree the future freedom of action of the IDF in southern Lebanon.

In the final analysis, the accomplishments of the IDF operation have been rather limited. It failed to inflict a mortal blow to the terrorist organizations. It did not insure a long-range, absolute calm in the border area (a relative calm was there before); it collected a price in blood from IDF men as well as from civilians in the Galilee; and, of necessity, it inflicted destruction and suffering on a large civilian population in southern Lebanon.

Now the fate of the area is mainly in the hands of the United Nations. If UN troops succeed in preventing the entry of terrorists into the area that was under IDF control, it will be an important achievement. To achieve this goal, the UN forces will require full cooperation from Syria, whose forces are sitting north of the PLO controlled strip, as well as from the Shi'ite and Christian population in the area.

The IDF withdrawal does not, apparently, remove the Lebanese issue from our agenda. It is to be hoped that the IDF withdrawal does not create circumstances that would force Israel to send the IDF in again.

SHI'ITE VILLAGERS DOUBTFUL OF UNIFIL EFFECTIVENESS

TA130730Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Apr 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Excerpt] Following is a report by our correspondent Yehezqe'el Hame'iri, on the mood and feelings of local residents in southern Lebanon:

When we were leaving the first evacuation strip with the last of the IDF men, we heard doubts expressed by the mukhtar of the village of Shab'a, Muhammad Salim (Zahiri), who was accompanying the Norwegian vanguard unit. He doubts the ability of the Norwegian force to measure up to the terrorists. We are all armed, disclosed the mukhtar, whose village is widely exposed to the terrorists. If the IDF is forced to withdraw, we shall have to rely on ourselves. He raised his arm and pointed in the direction of a terrorist who was watching us from the top of a hill. This, then, was the feeling of the Shi'ite villagers, whose villages had been evacuated by the IDF.

CLOSER LINKS WITH SHI'ITES IN S. LEBANON URGED

TA121819Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 12 Apr 78 p 5 TA

[Shemu'el Segev commentary]

[Text] The start of the IDF withdrawal from southern Lebanon must be accompanied by an attempt to formulate a new Israeli approach toward the civilian population in the areas adjacent to our northern border. Either because of a "natural proximity" or due to a tactical fortuitousness, throughout the 3 years of the civil war in Lebanon Israel kept close to the large Christian minority in the land of the cedars. Also when that minority became reconciled with the Syrian military occupation and began cooperating with the authorities in Damascus, Israel remained the only defender of the Christian enclaves in southern Lebanon. Thus, some kind of chivalry was manifested in a world which no longer has knights, and this Israeli steadfastness is yet due to bear plentiful fruits in the future.

However, 1 month after the IDF entry into southern Lebanon it became clear that the real victims of that operation were the Christians themselves. Even before the last military operation, the number of the Christians in southern Lebanon was hopelessly small. [paragraph continues]

Had it not been for the support of IDF bayonets, those Christians would have been slaughtered by the Palestinian terrorists. Theoretically, the "Litani operation" cleared southern Lebanon of terrorist forces and this clean-up was supposed to free the Christians of their ailments and to open the gates wide for Christian reinforcements from the north to reach the area. What happened in fact, however, was the opposite. With the start of the battles many Christian families immediately sought shelter in Beirut and in the safer areas in the north. Mainly Phalangist fighters and militiamen remained in the Christian enclaves near the Israeli border. After the end of the battles and after Israel's Government permitted the return of refugees to their ruined villages, the Christian were not among those who returned. Some of them did not return to their homes because the Palestinian terrorists set up roadblocks on the withdrawal routes and prevented the return of the Christians to the villages in the south. There were, however, many Christians who preferred to remain in the vicinity of Beirut and see how life would develop under UN patronage in the future. In any case, the result is the same: the decisive majority of the refugees returning to southern Lebanon are Shi'ite Moslems, whereas the Christian enclaves remain thinned out as they were in the past.

This situation faces Israel with a grave problem of conscience and statesmanship. Ever since Menahem Begin assumed office, almost a year ago, Israel has openly admitted to military assistance it is giving to the Christian militias, and it has also openly pledged not to abandon the Christian populace to the mercy of Palestinian terrorists. But now, after the "Litani operation," almost no Christians are left that would need to be protected. The Christian militiamen, who are armed and who put their destinies in the hands of Israel, number only several hundred men and when bad comes to worst, they can all be absorbed in Israel. On the other hand, in view of the terrorist tendency to prevent the return of Christian refugees to the villages in the south--the Christian enclaves will in the future be negligible in comparison to the decisive majority of Shi'ite Moslems in the areas near the Israeli border.

In IDF presence in southern Lebanon must now be used to build a friendly infrastructure with these Shi'ite Moslems. Without forsaking its alliance with the Christians and without leaving the Christian militias to their fate, Israel must now show initiative and imagination and pave a way to the heart of the Moslem population residing right next to it. Precisely because the Shi'ites are a minority within the Sunni Moslem world encircling us, they will need the defense of those same elements who had shown their loyalty to other minorities in the Middle East.

Obviously there is no security that the Shi'ites will want to lean on Israel. However, as long as their intentions have not been examined--there is no way of knowing if indeed they will reject the hand the IDF is offering them. The UN's slow deployment in the area, the "blue berets" fear of armed collision with the Palestinian terrorists and the real fear of the entire civilian population in southern Lebanon lest the terrorists return to their villages--all these dictate to the IDF that it should pull back slowly and gradually from the area captured during the "Litani operation." Israel never wanted to remain in southern Lebanon forever. However, after the "Litani operation" Israel cannot withdraw unless it has insured that the terrorists do not return to the areas close to its border. The extent of the destruction caused in the hostilities of the "Litani operation" has opened the eyes of the Moslem inhabitants to see how heavy is the damage caused them by the terrorists. The Shi'ite population in southern Lebanon is now becoming "a natural ally" of Israel--both in the efforts for rehabilitation and in the efforts to prevent the return of the terrorists to their bases.

When the IDF went on "the Litani operation", it did not intend to stay in the area for long. However, the conditions that have been created since then demand a prolonged stay. Therefore, until the completion of the total withdrawal, the IDF must accompany its forces with "an army of orientalists" to cooperate with the local population in various fields and lay the foundation for firm and continuing contact in the future. The first attempts at such cooperation must receive encouragement and must be followed up.

PERES: U.S. KNEW ISRAEL WOULD USE CLUSTER BOMBS

TA130700Y Jerusalem POST in English 13 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Montreal (JTA)--Labour Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said here on Tuesday night: "I told Vice-President Walter Mondale, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski that we (would) use cluster bombs against the gangs shelling our women and children."

Peres was speaking as the guest of honour at the fourth annual dinner of the friends of Ben-Gurion University here. Earlier, at a press conference, Peres said that the cluster bombs were used only twice in Lebanon: the first time when a deluge of Katyusha rockets hit Metulla and other cities and villages in northern Galilee, and the second time when Israeli forces ran into "sophisticated fortifications of the PLO."

HAZOFE COMMENTS ON IDF USE OF CLUSTER BOMBS

TA121234Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 12 Apr 78 p 2 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] The U.S. administration has embarked on a cautious dispute with Israel regarding the use of cluster bombs in southern Lebanon. In accordance with the agreement, those bombs should be used solely for purposes of self-defense. The United States believes, apparently, that the war in southern Lebanon does not fall under that definition. Israel replied that it had used the bombs only to silence the terrorist fire on settlements in the Galilee, in what amounts to an act of self-defense. It should be noted that the administration was making only a moderate criticism, at the same time expressing hope that Israel would withdraw from southern Lebanon. Putting the two issues into one package is not agreeable to our ears, since it implies a hint that the United States is linking military equipment shipments with political terms.

When President Carter assumed office, he rejected the Israeli request for cluster bombs, claiming that they were a "dirty weapon," even though the United States had been using them in Vietnam. The importance of the bombs lies in the fact that they save human lives and destroy minefields. It may be assumed that the IDF was using the bombs in southern Lebanon for this reason too. It has become clear, meanwhile, that the United States nevertheless agreed to fulfill the pledge of the former administration to supply Israel with those bombs for its defense. The IDF certainly had valid reasons for using the bombs in southern Lebanon against the terrorists. However, the disclcsure of the issue, which comes from U.S. sources and which accompanies the disclosure is apt to give cause for concern. [sentence as published]

PLO REPORTEDLY HAD LATEST SOVIET WEAPONS

TA130650Y Jerusalem POST in English 13 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Among the weapons used by the PLO terrorists in south Lebanon were modern Soviet types so far not introduced in the Middle East, the Israel army spokesman said yesterday.

Giving a list of weapons captured during the IDF operation in the south, the spokesman noted that it was the quality of the terrorist arms rather than their quantity that was significant. He singled out a new Soviet artillery piece, a 73mm recoilless gun, and the Strela-7 [as published] infantry-borne anti-aircraft missile.

All the arms depots and bases were located within villages and settlements, he said. Terrorist presence was ascertained in a total of 70 villages.

TERRORISTS RETURN TO S. LEBANON REPORTEDLY BEGUN

TA130740Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Apr 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel, military correspondent Roni Dani'el]

[Text] The terrorists return to the area of the Christian enclave near the Israeli border has already begun. The first phase of the IDF withdrawal has been completed and dozens of terrorists can already be found in the village of Kawkaba, 5 kms from Marj 'Uyun. That village was reached last week by the Norwegian UN troops and, immediately after them, by terrorists from various organizations, who took up positions inside the village near the UN troops.

Today, a vanguard of Nepalese officers is scheduled to arrive in southern Lebanon. They will tour the area of At-Tayyibah west of Metulla, where they are to be deployed. At-Tayyibah, on the (Ramduriyyah) junction, which is in thecenter of the sector, will be evacuated by the IDF on Friday in the second phase of the withdrawal.

IDF SOLDIER KILLED IN S. LEBANON INCIDENT

TA121645Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Apr 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Excerpt] An IDF soldier, Cpl Ilan Klepper, aged 26, from Herzliyya, was killed yesterday evening in a shootout with a terrorist unit on the western front in southern Lebanon.

GUSH EMUNIM CONTINUES BROADENING W. BANK SETTLEMENTS

TA101140Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 10 Apr 78 p 3 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Text] Gush Emunim spokesman Zevi Slonim said yesterday in reply to a question that Gush Emunim will not hold a demonstration this week or next week to support the cabinet's policy and to reply to the demonstration by the initiators of the officers' letter and the "peace now" movement in Tel Aviv.

The spokesman said that the Gush Emunim Secretariat had decided not to hold the demonstration because "it does not want to dissipate its forces" since the "movement for secure peace" would be holding a large demonstration this Saturday evening with the same aim.

The spokesman also reported that on the Monday of the Passover holiday [24 April] a ceremony will be held with the participation of the prime minister (who has already confirmed his participation). The cabinet ministers and all the members of the Knesset have been invited to the ceremony to mark the 10th anniversary of the founding of Qiryat Arba'. After this ceremony Gush Emunim intends to hold a march in Jerusalem.

In reply to a question, Zevi Slonim said that "quiet work" is now going on in the broadening and fleshing out of existing Gush Emunim settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

GO-AHEAD GIVEN FOR AN NABI SALAH SETTLEMENT

TA130745Y Jerusalem POST in English 13 Apr 78 p 2 TA

[By Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Defence minister 'Ezer Weizman has lifted the ban on development work for the Gush Emunim settlers in An Nabi Salah, in Samaria, a ministry spokesman said last night.

However, he would not confirm reports that preparation of land for settling 30 families will begin next week and that plans for settling 90 families in Bet El are also underway.

Several weeks ago, Weizman approved taking possession of 100 dunams of state-owned land west of the An Nabi Salah police station which the settlers occupy. But he forcefully opposed any development work since he was in the U.S. at the time and feared that reports of the project would harm his mission there.

TEXT OF POST INTERVIEW WITH ROMANIA'S CEAUSESCU

For the text of David Landau's interview with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu on 7 April, as carried in the Jerusalem POST on 11 April, see the Romania section of the 12 April Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT. For a report on this interview see the Israel section, page N 6, of the 11 April Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT.

RASTAKHIZ OFFICIAL ADDRESSES RALLY IN BANDAR ABBAS

LD122024Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 12 Apr 78 LD

[Text] At a mass rally of the Rastakhiz Party in Bandar Abbas tonight, Mr Mahmud Ja'farian [deputy secretary general of the Rastakhiz Party and head of PARS] discussed the people's positive and negative questions regarding the recent incidents in Iran and said:

Following the incidents of the past few weeks, the idea of encouraging the people themselves to counter subversive elements and consciously confront this antinational and antipeople's development was brought up. As a result, many questions have arisen in the people's minds. These questions must be openly raised and analyzed under the aegis of the Rastakhiz Party.

The deputy secretary general of the party added: I do not mean that all the people have raised all these questions. It is the party's duty, however, to put all these questions together, even if the questions have been raised by the opposition. The questions are as follows:

Is the government unable to maintain order? If it is able to do so, why has it asked the people to do the job? If the people are needed to do the job, one would like to know how many people are involved throughout the country in causing disorder and insecurity?

Are the news reports of disorders not exaggerated? Where in the world is the smashing of a window worth a news report? If such events were worthy of reporting, there would be millions of such news items in the world every day. If there is disorder in Iran, what can one say about the nations which have been plagued for several decades by war and bloodshed, terrorism and fire? How many daily news items should these nations publish? Should we hold a party meeting every time a window is broken?

Does calling on the people to put up resistance mean that gangs should fight each other with clubs and sticks in the streets? What is going on, anyway?

Mr Ja'farian said: If we think about these questions, even in a cursory manner, we can find clear answers. When we observe and hear that many west Asian statesmen owe the security of this critical part of the world largely to Iran; when we observe that, thanks to Iran's might and cooperation, countries in the southern part of the Persian Gulf and several countries in the Arabian Peninsula enjoy security and prosperity; when we observe that, thanks to Iran's might, those involved in interfering in the internal affairs of other countries on an international scale have shunned aggression against the Persian Gulf; when we hear that the United Nations selects its peace keeping forces from among Iranian troops; when we see that the war-stricken and unfortunate people of Lebanon give the Iranian troops the red carpet treatment and welcome them; when we see that the major oil powers of the world cannot make the slightest decision without Iran's approval; when we see Iranian colors flying on the waters of the Indian Ocean--from all this we reach the conclusion that the Imperial Iranian Government is there with all its might--a might the world has to take into account.

RASTAKHIZ OFFICIAL SCORES ACTS OF 'COLONIAL' AGENTS

LD121638Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1400 GMT 12 Apr 78 LD

[Text] In a press and radio-television interview today, Mr Ameli, deputy secretary general of the Rastakhiz Party, revealed the manner in which colonial agents are operating against the Iranian nation. Mr Ameli said that, by causing riots and chaos, colonialism is trying to force the Iranian Government to resort to harsh measures so that it can later shout through its mouthpieces concerning the lack of freedom in Iran. Mr Ameli stressed: We shall refrain from using harsh tactics and will call upon the government to deal with subversives by legal means.

WORKERS ORGANIZATION CRITICIZES WFTU STATEMENT

LD121730Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 12 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpts] The Iranian workers organization has learned about an anti-Iranian statement by the so-called WFTU, which has its headquarters in Prague, the capital of Czechoslovakia. According to news agency reports, the statement attempts to give a completely distorted and prejudicial picture of recent incidents in Iran--incidents inspired, organized and implemented by Iran's archenemies and their mercenary hirelings. This so-called WFTU, which has the temerity to peddle brazen lies, has claimed that in some unspecified way Iranian workers have participated in the recent incidents in order to demand better pay and working conditions. Such an allegation can only stem from the ignorance of the authors of the statement as to the realities prevailing in Iran today, or else it is a conscious effort on their part to level calumny and slander against Iran.

Millions of workers whom the so-called WFTU purports to represent know full well that the only freedom they are allowed is the freedom to obey the state machine and its gray-uniformed agents. These workers, who are even deprived of the right to choose their job or place of residence, or to hold assemblies or stage a strike--in short, these victims of dictatorial rules--will no doubt laugh when they observe that one of the instruments of coercion of their undemocratic regime pretends to defend freedom.

The Iranian workers organization strongly condemns the provocative action of the so-called WFTU. The Iranian workers organization calls upon all free and freedom-loving workers the world over to step up their decisive struggle against dictatorial regimes, fight against hegemonistic policies, and not to allow the name of the working class to be abused for implementing neocolonialist and hegemonical policies and for interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

USSR'S SKACHKOV HOLDS TALKS WITH AMUZEGAR IN TEHERAN

LD121430Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 12 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Mr Semen Skachkov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations under the USSR Council of Ministers, met and held talks with Prime Minister Jamshid Amuzegar at his office at noon today. Mr Muhammad Yeganeh, minister of economics and finance, some of those accompanying Mr Skachkov and the Soviet ambassador at the imperial court were present at this meeting.

BANGLADESH

AWAMI LEAGUE OFFICIAL RELEASED FROM DETENTION

BK121553Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0901 GMT 12 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Dacca, April 12 (AFP)--Mr Tufail Ahmed, an Awami League official and a former political secretary of late Bangladesh leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was released yesterday from detention by a Supreme Court order, party sources said.

Mr Ahmed, who first came up as a popular student leader during the mass upsurge against Ayub Khan's military regime in 1969, was put under detention under the Emergency Powers Act following the August 1975 coup in Bangladesh that overthrew Sheikh Mujib and his one-party government.

The release order came after the Supreme Court Division Bench rejected an appeal by the government against a High Court ruling declaring the detention of Mr Ahmed illegal. Thirty-five-year-old Tufail Ahmed, who was elected organising secretary of the Awami League by the party's council session last month, was freed from a district jail in Kushtia in southern Bangladesh. Party officials left for Kushtia today to accompany him to Dacca.

Last week, Awami League leaders including President Mr Abdul Malek Ukil and Secretary Mr Abdur Razak, issued statements saying Mr Tufail's mother was on her "death bed" in Dacca's medical hospital and urging government to release him to see his mother.

BURMESE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES 13 APRIL

BK130902Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 13 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Burmese foreign minister, Brig Gen Myint Baung, arrived in Dacca this afternoon on a 4-day official visit to Bangladesh. He was received at the airport by the presidential adviser for foreign affairs, Prof Shamsul Haq.

Talking to newsmen, the Burmese foreign minister said his talks with Bangladesh leaders will cover matters of mutual interest. He said both his country and Bangladesh are linked by land and sea and they are close friendly neighbors. He expressed his firm conviction that his current tour will further strengthen the existing friendly ties between the two countries. The Burmese minister, who is visiting Bangladesh for the first time, is leading a nine-member delegation.

Welcoming the visiting dignitaries, the adviser for foreign affairs said he is very happy to receive the Burmese leader. He also expressed the hope that the exchanges of visits between the two countries will help cement the existing good relations between them. .

Among those present at the airport to greet the distinguished guests were a number of Burmese nationals living in Bangladesh.

INDIA

GANDHI DENIES SECRET KASHMIR PACT WITH BHUTTO

BK130920Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Congress-I leader, Mrs Gandhi, has denied the charge that she had entered into a secret pact with the former prime minister of Pakistan, Mr Bhutto, on the Kashmir issue at the time of the Simla Agreement. She was addressing a public meeting at Ludhiana in Punjab.

INDIA-TANZANIA JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

BK1210O5Y Delhi ISI in English 0836 GMT 12 Apr 78 BK

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency Morarji Desai, prime minister of the Republic of India, His Excellency Aboud Jumbe, vice president of the United Republic of Tanzania, leading an official delegation, paid a fraternal visit to India from April 2 to 11, 1978. The delegation was received with traditional warmth and affection by the government and people of India.

During his stay in India the vice president of the United Republic of Tanzania called on President N. Sanjiva Reddy and Vice President B.D. Jatti and held official talks with Prime Minister Morarji Desai. He also received Minister for External Affairs Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The vice president addressed the Indian Council of World Affairs and visited some industrial sites and places of cultural and scientific interests in Delhi, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Bangalore and Bombay.

In the official talks the Tanzanian vice president was assisted by the following: Ali Mzee Ali, minister of state, vice president's office, member of the Central Committee of the CCM [the revolutionary party of Tanzania]; C.D. Msuya, minister of industries; Ali Salim, minister for development planning, Zanzibar, member of the Central Committee of the CCM; Jackson Kaaya, regional chairman, CCM, Arusha region; Hamis Darwesh, member of the Revolutionary Council of Zanzibar, member of the Central Committee of the CCM; Doctor Mrs Msim Abdulrahman, secretary general of the Women's Organisation of Tanzania, member of the Central Committee of the CCM; Professor Kigoma A. Malima, member of the Central Committee of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (the revolutionary party of Tanzania); M.A. Foum, junior minister for foreign affairs; Mohammad Faki, junior minister of industries, Zanzibar; G.M. Nhigula, high commissioner for Tanzania to India.

The prime minister of India was assisted by the following: Atal Bihari Vajpayee, minister for external affairs; George Fernandes, minister of industry; Mohan Dharia, minister for commerce, civil supplies and cooperation; V. Shankar, principal secretary to the prime minister; Jagat Mehta, foreign secretary; M.A. Vellodi, secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; V.K. Ahuja, secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; S.S. Marathe, secretary, Ministry of Industrial Development; R.D. Thapar, secretary, Ministry of Commerce; R.P. Naik, secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation; A.S. Gonsalves, joint secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance; K.K. Bhargava, joint secretary (Africa), Ministry of External Affairs.

These talks took place in an atmosphere of warmth, cordiality and mutual understanding and in the spirit of close and friendly relations existing between the two countries. In the course of discussions they reviewed the international situation, particularly the recent developments in southern Africa and the growing relations between Tanzania and India.

The vice president of Tanzania expressed appreciation of the concrete steps taken by the Government of India for creating conditions for durable peace and stability in the subcontinent and an atmosphere which is conducive to the establishment of functional and mutually beneficial cooperation among all countries in the subcontinent. The prime minister of India outlined the steps taken by the Indian Government during the last 1 year in establishing and strengthening friendly and good neighbourly relations and cooperation with all her neighbours.

The two leaders expressed their grave concern at the critical situation obtaining in Zimbabwe. They noted that the illegal regime of Ian Smith has not yet been removed. They condemned the "internal settlement" reached by him at Salisbury. The two leaders expressed full support for and solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe and the Patriotic Front which has been in the forefront of the liberation struggle.

They called upon the United Kingdom and the United States to reiterate their commitment to the Anglo-American proposals and convene in the shortest possible time a conference to follow up the Malta talks.

The two leaders also condemned the increasingly aggressive and hostile actions of the illegal Smith regime against neighbouring independent African states. The two leaders called upon the international community to tighten and extend UN sanctions against the illegal regime in Zimbabwe.

The two leaders reaffirmed their support to the heroic people of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO in their valiant struggle for putting an end to illegal occupation by the racist regime of South Africa. They noted the efforts undertaken by the five-power contact group to bring about a negotiated settlement for a peaceful transition to majority rule and independence of Namibia in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations. They reaffirmed their commitment to the full independence and territorial integrity of Namibia.

The two leaders also expressed their deep concern over the explosive situation in South Africa arising out of the policy of apartheid and the persistent denial of basic human rights by the racist regime to the majority of the people. They condemned the repressive and antidemocratic measures unleashed by the South African regime against the people and called for effective implementation of sanctions against it, including complete embargo on arms, trade and investment.

The two leaders expressed their concern at the situation in the Horn of Africa. They expressed the hope that the mediation efforts of the OAU within the framework of its charter would succeed in bringing about a durable political solution leading to the establishment of peace in the region.

The two sides reaffirmed their support to the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, free from foreign military bases and great power rivalry and called upon the great powers and major maritime users to fully cooperate with littoral and hinterland states in achieving the objective of the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

On west Asia, the two sides noted with regret that a solution to the basic issues had not yet been found and stressed the need for early implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. The two sides reiterated their wholehearted support to the struggle of the Palestinian people for the restoration of their legitimate national rights and felt that the international community must pay urgent attention to finding a just and durable solution of the problem in the interest of peace and justice.

The two leaders stressed the need for general and complete disarmament under international control and attach in this connection great importance to the forthcoming special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament. The two sides agreed about the need for the nonaligned nations to concert their positions and harmonise their approach on this question, both at the special session and for followup action. They expressed the hope that discussions at the forthcoming meeting of the Nonaligned Bureau in Kabul in May and at the nonaligned conference in July at Belgrade would serve these objectives.

The two leaders reviewed the developments in bilateral relations between their two countries in various fields, including trade, economy, education and culture, industry, science and technology. They expressed their satisfaction at the growth of these relations. They noted the progress made so far and emphasised the need for further steps to enlarge such cooperation for the success of mutually beneficial and dignified relations between the two countries. The two sides noted that such cooperation would contribute to the objective of collective self-reliance among the developing countries as well as to that of the establishment of a new international economic order.

The vice president of the United Republic of Tanzania expressed his warm appreciation of the cordial and gracious welcome extended to him and to the members of his delegation by the government and people of India. The vice president of Tanzania renewed his invitation to the prime minister of India to visit Tanzania. The prime minister thanked the vice president for this cordial invitation and expressed the hope that he would be able to visit Tanzania in the near future.

AFGAN FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH VAJPAYEE

BK121519Y Delhi ISI in English 1500 GMT 12 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Wahid Abdollah, Afgan minister in charge of foreign affairs now on a visit to India, met External Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on April 12, reports SAMACHAR.

Vajpayee was assisted in the talks by the Minister of State for External Affairs Somarendra Kundu, Foreign Secretary J.S. Mehta, Additional Secretary N.P. Jain and Joint Secretary Doctor J.P. Singh. The Afgan minister was assisted by the Afgan ambassador in Delhi and senior officials who have accompanied him on his visit.

Meets With Desai

BK130913Y Delhi ISI in English 0843 GMT 13 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Wahid Abdollah, minister in charge of foreign affairs of Afghanistan, called on Prime Minister Morarji Desai on the evening of April 12, reports SAMACHAR. The meeting lasted 55 minutes. Speaking later to SAMACHAR, Abdollah said he was happy with his talks with the prime minister. Their talks covered bilateral relations, questions concerning the region and other international matters. The forthcoming meeting of the nonalined Coordinating Bureau also figured during the discussions.

Abdollah referred to his talks with Atal Bihari Vajpayee, external affairs minister, earlier in the day and said he was going back home with lots of memories. "I shall cherish the visit," he said.

Abdollah arrived in Delhi on the night of April 11 in the course of his tour in preparation for the bureau meeting in Kabul.

VAJPAYEE, SHAHI HOLD THIRD ROUND OF TALKS 12 APRIL

BK121107Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, and the Pakistan adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, had a further exchange of views on bilateral matters in New Delhi today. This was their third round of discussions and lasted nearly 2 hours. Some of their aides were also present.

Meanwhile, delegations of the two countries headed by their foreign secretaries resumed their negotiations on the design and construction of the Salal Dam. The Air [All-India Radio] correspondent says that they are continuing their talks with a view to reaching an agreement. There is optimism that given good will and a spirit of accomodation it should be possible to resolve the differences on the issue. Earlier this morning the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Somarendra Kundu, called on Mr Agha Shahi.

INDIA, PAKISTAN REACH ACCORD ON SALAL DAM PROJECT

BK121246Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Apr 78 BK

[Text] India and Pakistan have reached an agreement in principle on the Salal project proposed to be built by India on the Chenab.

This was announced by the Pakistan adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, at a news conference in New Delhi a short while ago. He said technical experts of the two countries are drawing up the text of the agreement, and he expressed the hope that he would be able to sign it before leaving for Pakistan tomorrow.

An official spokesman today denied a report in a New Delhi newspaper that India has agreed to pay compensation to Pakistan for use of the Chenab waters for the proposed Salal Dam. He said the report is completely wrong. No compensation is involved because India does not propose to keep back any water of the river.

Press Conference on Accord

BK121612Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Apr 78 BK

[Text] India and Pakistan have reached agreement in principle on the design and construction of the Salal Hydroelectric Project on the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir. Experts of the two countries are trying to evolve the text of the agreement.

Mr Agha Shahi, foreign affairs adviser to the chief martial law administrator of Pakistan, made this announcement at a news conference in New Delhi this evening. He expressed the hope that the two sides will be in a position to sign the agreement before his departure for Pakistan tomorrow morning. Under the Indus Water Treaty of 1960, the waters of the Chenab had been allocated to Pakistan, but the upper riparian state can use these for generating hydroelectric power. Negotiations on the project have been going on since 1970 between the two countries.

Mr Agha Shahi said that apart from its other merits the agreement will prove that all problems between India and Pakistan can be resolved no matter how impractible they may appear to be if there is sincerity of purpose and political will. With the growth of mutual trust and confidence, it should now be possible to try for a just settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute which he said remains the only unimplemented provision of the Simla Agreement. He said the subject had come up at his talks with Indian leaders, but they did not go into its substantive aspects. These would be more appropriately discussed at the meeting of the heads of government of the two countries. Answering a question about the proposed visit of Gen Ziaul Haq to India, he said the way has to be smoothed and the appropriateness of time determined by the two countries.

About bilateral trade, Mr Agha Shahi said an Indian delegation is going to Pakistan shortly to review these matters with a view to achieving a better balance. Pakistan adopts a pragmatic approach and will buy from India what it can on the best possible terms. Mr Agha Shahi disclosed that he had exchanged views with Indian leaders on the proposed purchase of deep penetration strike aircraft by India. That we can discuss such a matter is indicative of the progress of our relations, he observed.

Mr Agha Shahi said Pakistan is satisfied that India is not trying to strive for any position of leadership and hegemony. His country accepts that the Government of India is sincere in its professions of sovereign equality of all nations and wants to conduct its relations with the surrounding smaller states on that basis.

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